



# Hay Creek Fire

Flathead National Forest, Montana

**JULY 31, 2021**

## INFORMATION

- **Phone:** (406) 219-1013, 8 am to 8 pm
- **Email:** [2021.HayCreek@firenet.gov](mailto:2021.HayCreek@firenet.gov)
- **InciWeb:**  
<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7712/>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/discovertheflathead>
- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/FlatheadNF>



Scan the code with your smart phone to visit Hay Creek Fire on InciWeb.

## STATISTICS

- **Location:** 4 miles west of Polebridge, MT
- **Date of Origin:** July 21, 2021
- **Cause:** Lightning
- **Total fire acres:** 2,265 acres
- **Containment:** 0%

**Flathead County road crews are grading and providing dust abatement on the North Fork Road along a 10m section south of Camas Road through the weekend. Expect long delays.**

## RESOURCES

- **Engines:** 15
- **1 Type 2 Crew:** 20 people
- **2 Heavy Equipment Task Forces (dozers, skidgines, excavators, water tenders)**
- **Helicopters:** 2 Type 1 Helicopters
- **Personnel:** 147

## INCIDENT UPDATE

The southwest flank of the fire remains the most active, exhibiting single and group tree torching and making short crown runs. Overall fire behavior is moderate however, unseasonably hot and dry conditions will result in noticeable fire activity continuing overnight.

Conditions during the burn period on Friday allowed for further firing operations from the Hay Creek Road along the eastern front with the intent to reduce available fuels ahead of the main fire. Helicopters dropped buckets along the southwest flank of the fire to aid ground personnel in holding their line along the road.

Previously established roads and fuel breaks are being widened and reinforced along primary and contingency lines between the main fire and private properties to the east.

## EVACUATIONS

Evacuation Warnings include all residences east and west of the North Fork Road from Home Ranch Bottoms north to and including Moose Creek Road and the community of Polebridge. Glacier National Park has issued an Evacuation Warning for the North Fork area of Glacier National Park north of Logging Creek. See details at <https://go.usa.gov/xFjcA> and [Current Fire Information - Glacier National Park](#).

## CLOSURES

Road and trail closures are in place. See details at Inciweb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/article/7712/62192/>.

## WEATHER AND AIR QUALITY

Winds will shift from northeasterly to easterly during the day Saturday. No significant precipitation is expected, though there is a chance for cloudy skies and increased humidity on Sunday. For the most current fire weather forecast go to <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/fire?wfo=mso>. For smoke and air quality go to <http://svc.mt.gov/deq/todaysair/>. For current visibility in Glacier NP see <https://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/photosmultimedia/webcams.htm>.

## INCIDENT BACKGROUND

The Hay Creek Fire was reported on the evening of July 21, 2021. It is burning in the North Fork area of the Flathead National Forest and is being managed by a local Type 3 Incident Management Team under a full suppression strategy using aviation resources and indirect tactics.

*Public and firefighter safety is the number one priority.* Additional priorities include minimizing impacts to private property, structures and critical infrastructure, and road corridors and natural resources. Due to high fire activity in our region and across the country, resources are limited and prioritized.

## PREVENTION MESSAGE

Most of Montana is experiencing EXTREME fire danger; Stage 2 Fire Restrictions are in effect. Know Before You Go- Visit [www.mtfireinfo.org](http://www.mtfireinfo.org) for Montana fire restrictions.