



## Northern Idaho Wildfire Update August 21, 2015



Our thoughts are with the family and friends of **Tom Zbyszewski**, 20; **Andrew Zajac**, 26; and **Richard Wheeler**, 31 the firefighters who lost their lives Wednesday afternoon battling the Twisp Fire in Washington. The firefighters, members of an Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest engine crew, were involved in initial attack when overwhelmed by the fire. Support can be provided through the Wildland Firefighters Foundation <http://www.wffoundation.org>

**Contact:** Interagency Fire Information Line (208) 765-7383

**Fire Information:** [www.inciweb.nwcg.gov](http://www.inciweb.nwcg.gov)

**Restriction Information:** <http://idahofireinfo.blogspot.com/> or <http://firerestrictions.us/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/USFSIPNF>

**Fire Danger Rating:** **EXTREME** National Wildfire Preparedness is at the Highest Level (PL 5) Fires will start easily, spread rapidly, quickly increase in intensity and can be very difficult to control. **Stage II Fire Restrictions in effect within Grangeville & Coeur d'Alene Dispatch Restriction Areas**

**Weather: Red Flag Warning in effect until 11:00 pm Friday.**

The Red Flag warning for a combination of strong winds, low humidity and warm temperatures will create extreme fire growth potential. Fuels are extremely dry. Today will be partly sunny with a slight chance of scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms. Areas of blowing dust throughout the day. High temperatures will be 70-75 (valleys) and 60-69 (mountains). Windy conditions continue with valley winds out of the west at 10-13 mph, with gusts to 30 mph. In the mountains winds will be northwest 12-17 mph. Winds could gust as high as 26 mph. Minimum humidity between 20-30 in the valleys and 30-45% in the mountains. Saturday, sunny with areas of smoke. Temperatures to be mid-70s to low 80s with northeast winds at 4-8 mph. Warm and dry conditions will continue through the weekend

**Incident Summary:** Listing of active fires (attached).

- **Parker Ridge Fire** 6,147 acres, zero% contained. 7/29 lightning start. NW of Bonners Ferry, Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) (Weeks). Evacuations in effect on the Westside road area and structure protection continues. Yesterday the fire was active backing and creeping. The fire will continue to flank up drainage and back downslope in both Long Creek and in Parker Creek drainages with short uphill runs to top of ridge. The forecasted erratic winds could increase fire behavior. Fire fighters are using a confine/contain strategy due to the high number of beetle killed lodgepole pine (90%) which affects safety. Crews will work to create a fire break and continue to shore up north and south flanks of the fire. Night operations will continue. Closures are in effect. Information: 208-267-6773 Email: [parkerridgefireinfo@gmail.com](mailto:parkerridgefireinfo@gmail.com) Personnel: 108.
- **Big Lost Fire** 1280 acres, 30 % containment IMT 3 (Svancara) E of Potlatch near Hwy 6, ten miles S of Emida, 3 miles N/NE of Harvard, Latah County. Yesterday fire activity was moderate, creeping and smoldering with single tree torching within control line perimeters occurring with wind gusts. There was some spotting outside the perimeter. Hot and dry weather with wind gusts up to 25 miles per hour has the potential to cause spotting across control lines. The potential for fire spread and escape across unsecured constructed fire lines is high due to expected wind events.

Today, firefighters will continue to develop perimeter control and installation of containment lines. Some burnouts of firelines may occur. Aircraft will be used to secure spot fires and perimeter control. Closures are in effect. The Laird Park and White Pine Campgrounds (includes the Grizzly Boy Scout Camp) have been evacuated and are closed. Personnel: 158

- **Not Creative Fire** 150 acres 100% contained, 8/13 start, Type II Incident Management Team (Fry). IDL, four miles north of Rose Lake on the south side of I-90. Fire fighters continue finishing and strengthening fire lines and the entire perimeter has hose around it. The fire will be staffed today in anticipation of Red Flag weather. Firefighters will be ready for initial attack. The team is transitioning back to the local district. Personnel: 130. Fire Information Facebook: Shoshone County Fire Prevention Coop <http://tinyurl.com/ppx3uhd>.
- **Clark Fork Complex:** Scotchman Peak, Whitetail, Marten Fires (east of Lake Pend Oreille in the Idaho Panhandle National Forest) plus six smaller fires in the Kootenai NF in Montana. Type 2 IMT Closures are in effect, but no evacuations, no structures are immediately threatened in Idaho. Information:406-210-9225 (phone coverage is limited please call back if not connected)
  - **Scotchman Peak Fire: 2,876 acres.** Started 8/13, four miles NE of Clark Fork, N of Hwy 200. Firefighters continue to strengthen road systems along the foot of the hill. The fire continues to burn on the east side of the Peak in the Blue Creek drainage. The southwest flank of the fire has crossed over the southern ridge of the Peak and is slowly backing down the hill to the southwest. A structure assessment/protection plan is being developed.
  - **Whitetail Fire: 764 acres** is south of Hwy 200 and nine miles S of Clark Fork, 8 miles SW of Heron, Montana. The fire is burning on the southeast flank of Whitetail Peak in the “Deer Creek” area. Aerial resources backed ground crews in holding the fire south of the 332 road. Crews will continue to improve the line along the 332 road.
  - **Marten Fire:** 5 acres Started 8/19 to the west of the Whitetail fire. Yesterday, helicopters water drops limited grown of the fire.
- **Marble Creek Fire** 1115 acres, zero % contained. 8/11 start. Type 3 IMT (Mandel) Yesterday, the fire was active with interior burning and group torching due primarily to the winds. Fire fighters are utilizing a combination of direct and indirect line construction and holding as well as structure protection of residences and infrastructure in the St. Joe River corridor. High winds and red flag conditions may seriously hamper previous containment efforts. Spread potential to the S, E, and Northeast. Resources were relocated to safe areas yesterday due to Red Flag winds that could compromise personnel safety. Closures are in effect. Personnel: 60
- **Tower Fire** (Kaniksu Complex is 9,180 acres and includes Baldy, Greece Creek, Onata Creek and Tower) **Public Meeting tomorrow, 7:00 pm Saturday at Priest Lake Elementary, Priest Lake.** **Tower Fire is 8,290 acres and is all in Washington, 2% containment.** The fire started in Colville NF and is visible from Priest Lake. Area Command is in place for fires in the Colville National Forest (NF). Colville NF is managing the fire with guidance from Idaho Panhandle NF fire management. Yesterday there was little growth as the smoke laid down on the fire and acted like a blanket. With today’s forecasted winds fire activity is expected to increase and fire spread is anticipated to the northeast. **Tower Fire Evacuation Notices Pend Oreille County Sheriff Department Bear Paw vicinity: Level 1\* (Get Ready). Bonner County Sheriff Department Big Meadow and vicinity: Level 2\* (Get Set)** Residents should be prepared to leave at a moment’s notice. **Bonner County Level 1** for: Highway 57 Corridor North (of Dickensheet Rd) Highway 57 Corridor South (of Dickensheet Rd). A portion of the Newport Ranger District of the Colville National Forest is closed. Fire Information is 907-750-1639. [towerfireinfo@gmail.com](mailto:towerfireinfo@gmail.com)

- **Grizzly Complex:** 4,000 acres Type 3 IMT (Day) **Public Meeting Tonight, 6:30 pm Friday, August 21 at the Prichard-Murray Fire Hall.** Started Aug 10 and include North Grizzly, South Bobtail, Bobtail, Lower Flat, North Suburban, East Suburban, South Suburban, Upper Stoney, Lower Stoney, Downey, and Grizzly Ridge. Fires were active yesterday, especially South Bobtail which is now at 500 acres with a S, SW spread as fire has compromised the West Fork road and has burned to the Settlers Cedar Grove. The fire is 2 miles north of the structures on Eagle Creek. Point and structure protection is occurring there as well as in South Suburban.
- **Snow Peak Complex:** 270 acres ICT3 Juvan, include the following fires: Ruby Point, Basin Creek, Trail 55, Caribou, Lightning Ridge, Chicadee, Game, Pole Creek, My Ruby, and Salt Pork. Due to terrain, limited resources and no immediate threats to life and structures, the Snow Peak Complex does not have fire fighters on the ground. Fire fighter resources are focused on higher priority fires where lives, structures and valuable resources are threatened. The County has closed Hwy 50 over Gold Pass.

#### **Additional Information:**

- Residents in most counties throughout north Idaho can receive evacuation notices by text message by registering with a service called “Nixle.” To register, text your ZIP CODE to 888777 for mobile alerts. This is a free citizen voice and text alert notification service.
- **Closures:** For details Idaho Panhandle National Forest’s (IPNF) webpage: [www.fs.usda.gov/IPNF](http://www.fs.usda.gov/IPNF).

#### **\*Definitions:**

**Level 1 Alert (Get Ready)** Residents should be ready, made aware of the increased risk and asked to monitor emergency services. Residents should prepare and if needed, take early precautionary movement to relocate, especially those with special needs, pets, livestock or those needing transportation assistance.

**Level 2 Voluntary Evacuation (Get Set)** Residents should be prepared to leave at a moment’s notice. Residents should monitor emergency services. A significant danger exists. It is suggested that you voluntarily relocate to a shelter or with family/friends. Be ready to evacuate immediately, especially those with special needs, pets, livestock or those needing transportation assistance.

#### **The public is prohibited to go into or be upon these areas, roads and trails.**

- Priest Lake RD - **Tower Fire** and **Upper Priest Fire:** Road 1013 (Upper Priest), Road 310 (Gleason Mtn), Road 333 (Goose Cr & Blanc Cr); Closed at State line, Road 659 (Squaw Valley), Road 305 (Kings Road) Road 1142 (Butch Creek Rd)
  - **Tower Fire Evacuation Notice** was implemented August 19, Pend Oreille County Sheriff Department **Bear Paw vicinity: Level 1\* (Get Ready)**
  - Bonner County Sheriff Department **Big Meadow and vicinity: Level 2\* (Get Set)** Residents should be prepared to leave at a moment’s notice.
  - August 20, Bonner County issued an **Evacuation Level 1\* for: Highway 57 Corridor North (of Dickensheet Rd) Highway 57 Corridor South (of Dickensheet Rd)** Note: This Level 1 notice is being issued because fire fighters are concerned about the fact that Hwy 57 is the ONLY logical escape route South from the Priest Lake Community. It is NOT because of imminent fire danger to the area.
  - A portion of the Newport Ranger District of the Colville National Forest is closed.
- Bonners Ferry Ranger District (RD), IPNF due to **Parker Ridge Fire:** Parker Creek Trail #14, Long Canyon Trail #16 and Parker Ridge Trail #221 and the Fisher Peak Trail. The Pacific Trail has been closed east and west of the fire.

- Sandpoint and Coeur d'Alene River RDs, IPNF - **Clark Fork Complex (Scotchman Peak and Whitetail Fires)**: Trails in the Scotchman Peak area. Portions of T56N-R3E and T57N-R3E: Scotchman Peak Trail #65, Goat Mountain #135, Regal #556, Morris #132, East Fork System #1184, 563, 1030, or 212. And in the Whitetail area: Forest Roads #430, #332, #332A, #203 (Dry Creek), #203A, #203B, #203E, and #1533; Forest Trails #20 (Coeur d'Alene River NRT), 52 (Alden Creek), #448 (Deer Creek), #77, #122. There are also large area closures generally from Buckskin Saddle southeast to Bluff Creek, and Delyle Ridge south to Cathedral Peak.
- Coeur d'Alene River RD - **Bennett Peak Fire**: Little Guard Rd #602 and Shoshone Ridge #81. **Grizzly Mountain Fire**: Forest Roads # 260, #959, #993, #994, #1568 and Forest Trails #807 (Indian Creek) and 807A (Indian Creek). **Solitare Creek Fire**: T52N, R1W, S.3,4,5,8,9,10 and T53N, R1W S. 32,33,34. Trails 1525 Solitare Creek 4WD and Sob Creek 4WD
- Coeur d'Alene District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - **Crater Fire**: Crater Lake and Widow Mountain Areas, BLM lands in T43N, R4 E.
- St. Joe RD– **Crater Fire** - Areas in T42N- R4E, T43N-R4E, T43N-R3E, T44N–R3E. **Marble Creek Fire Closure Area** Jct of 396 (Boulder Creek) Rd and 321 (Marble Creek) Rd, then SE on 396 Rd to its jct with 396A Rd, then S on 396A Rd to end point, the boundary follows S to jct of 216 (Homestead) Rd and 1936 (Daveggio Creek) Rd, then on 216 (Homestead) Rd to its intersection with 321 (Marble Creek) Road, then N on 321(Marble Creek Road) to its jct with 396 (Boulder Creek) Road, the point of beginning.

<b>Incident Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Current Size</b>	<b>Protection Agency</b>	<b>Status</b>
Pretty	SZ – St. Joe	25 acres	IPNF	Start 8/21: difficult access
Marten Creek	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	5 acres	IPNF	Start 8/19:helicopter water drops - Clark Fork Complex, west of Whitetail Fire
Salt Pork	SZ-St. Joe	0.1 acre	IPNF	Start 8/17: Snow Peak Complex
My Ruby	SZ-St. Joe	0.5 acre	IPNF	Start 8/17: Snow Peak Complex
Get Lost	NZ – State -Priest Lake		IDL	Start 8/15:contained
Crater	SZ –St. Joe: BLM land	320 acres	IPNF	Start 8/15:
Stub Toe	SZ – St. Joe	0.1 acre	IPNF	Start 8/14:contained/staffed
Pole Creek	SZ – St. Joe	0.1 acre	IPNF	Start 8/14: Snow Peak Complex
Game	SZ – St. Joe	2 acres	IPNF	Start 8/14: Snow Peak Complex
Basin Creek	SZ – St. Joe	36 acres	IPNF	Start 8/14: Snow Peak Complex
Gozzer	CZ – State-Mica	2 acres	IDL	Start 8/14: Contained
Solitaire Creek	CZ- Coeur d’Alene River	30 acre	IPNF	Start 8/14:blocked trail 1525, IC Type 4 (Feltmann) area closure, fire is lined, edges secure, 8/19 burned out green finger
Upper Priest	NZ – Priest Lake	70 acres	IPNF	Start 8/14: area closures, monitored (S. Clemenson) 8/16 active again after several calm days
Whitetail Peak	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	764 acres	IPNF	Start 8/14: Clark Fork Complex IMT Type 3 (Swenson) trail closures at Jordan Camp.
Scotchman Peak	NZ-Sandpoint	2,876 acres	IPNF	Start 8/13: Clark Fork Complex closure of trail systems Type 3 IMT (Swenson)
Not Creative	CZ-State-Cataldo	150 acres		Start 8/13: Type 2 IMT (Fry) 100% containment,
Benewah Creek	SZ-State-West St. Joe	34 acre	IDL	Start 8/13:ICT 4, (Schiermeister) contained, patrol status
My Creek	SZ- St. Joe	10 acres	IPNF	Start 8/13: patrol
Big Lost	SZ-State-Ponderosa	1280acres	IDL	Start 8/13: Type 3 IMT (Svancara) in place
Chicadee	SZ- St. Joe	1.5 acres	IPNF	Start 8/13: Snow Peak Complex
Bennett Peak	USFS CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	3 acres	IPNF	Start 8/12: contained, monitor
Caribou Creek	SZ – St. Joe	0.1 acre	IPNF	Start 8/12:proposed wilderness, Snow Peak
Lightning Ridge	SZ – St. Joe	7 acres	IPNF	Start 8/12: Snow Peak Complex
Hoyt	SZ – St. Joe	1.4 acres	IPNF	Start 8/12: (Patton) intense mop up needed
Trail 55	SZ - St. Joe /state lands	0.3 acre	IPNF	Start 8/12: Snow Peak Complex, scratch line in, low spread potential

Tower	Colville National Forest NZ Idaho Panhandle	8290	CNF	Start 8/11: Fire is in Washington
Ruby Point	SZ – St. Joe	78 acres	IPNF	Start 8/11: Snow Peak Complex
Falls Ridge	SZ–State–West St. Joe	0.9 acre	IPNF	Start 8/11:contained, patrol status
Flat Creek 2	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	.25 acre	IPNF	Start 8/11: minimal fire activity
Marble Creek	SZ - St. Joe	1115acres	IPNF	Start 8/11: IC Type 3 (Almas); zero% contained anchor established 8/19 fire heated up in the afternoon
Pond Peak	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	1 acre	IPNF	Start 8/11: contained
Murray Peak	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	5 acres	IPNF	Start 8/11: contained, continue mop-up 8/19 some heat bottom and left flank
Slaughter House	SZ – State – West St. Joe	47 acres	IDL	Start 8/10: contained, patrolled
3 Sisters	NZ-Pend Oreille	228 acres	IDL	Start 8/4: contained
Parker Ridge	NZ – Bonners Ferry	6139acres	IPNF	Start 7/29: IMT3(Weeks) structure protection, evacuations in effect
Hobo	SZ- St. Joe	45 acres	IPNF	Start 7/23: contained/ monitored
Elevator	SZ-St. Joe	25 acres	IPNF	Start 7/22; contained/ monitored
Abandon	NZ – Priest Lake- State	30 acres	IDL	Start 7/20: contained/ patrol
Cape Horn	NZ-Pend Oreille	1326 acres	IDL	Start 7/5: contained /mopup, patrol cause under investigation

IPNF: Idaho Panhandle National Forests

IPNF NZ: Idaho Panhandle National Forests North Zone (U.S. Forest Service)

IPNF CZ: Idaho Panhandle National Forests Central Zone (U.S. Forest Service)

IPNF SZ: Idaho Panhandle National Forests South Zone (U.S. Forest Service)

IDL: Idaho Department of Lands (State)

ICT: Incident Command Type

**STAGE II Fire Restrictions: The following acts are prohibited until further notice:**

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a designated smoking site or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
3. Operating motorized vehicles off designated roads and trails in accordance with existing travel management plans for non-commercial purposes including ATVs, UTVs, and pickups.
4. The following acts are prohibited from 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. A patrol is required for one hour following cessation of all work as described in **a, b, and c** below:
  - a. Operating a chainsaw or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine for felling, bucking, skidding, processing, road building, woodcutting or any other off-road activity during industrial operations.
  - b. Blasting, welding, or other activities that generate flame or flammable material.
  - c. Using an explosive

**\*Private landowners within city boundaries should consult their local Fire Department for current restrictions in their community.**