



Northern Rockies  
Incident Management Team 8  
Brad Bergman,  
Incident Commander

### FIRE INFORMATION

Phone: 406-426-9595

Email: 2023.bigknife@firenet.gov



Inciweb:

CSKT Division of Fire Facebook:



### INCIDENT STATISTICS

Location: 5 miles east of Arlee, MT

Cause: Lightning

Fire Size: 6,275 acres

Containment: 7%

### RESOURCES ASSIGNED

Crews: 5

Engines: 9

Water Tenders: 4

Heavy Equipment: 4

Total Personnel: 251

# Big Knife

August 17, 2023, 9:00 AM MDT

As of 0700 Brad Bergman's Incident Management Team 8 assumed command of the Big Knife Fire. On the southwest edge of the fire, crews are assessing the fire's progress as it moves down the slopes to control lines. Firefighters are preparing canal roads for better access and removing vegetation around power poles.

On the south end of the fire in the Agency Creek drainage, crews will patrol and monitor fire activity. With pumps and hoses in place, they will continue to work on hotspots within the perimeter. Crews will be monitoring the pumps and sprinkler systems installed to protect infrastructure on the east side of the fire as well as Jocko Lookout which has water systems in place as well as a fire-resistant wrap around the base.

The Big Knife Fire is currently 1.25 miles north of the Rattlesnake Wilderness Boundary (Lolo National Forest) with no significant growth towards the Lolo National Forest in the last week. Smoke from the fire may impact the Snowbowl area, however the Lolo National Forest does not have any forest closures in place on the Missoula Ranger District.

**CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES:** Several areas near the base of the mountains west of the Big Knife Fire remain in PRE-EVACUATION WARNING by order of the Lake County Sheriff. See the map for those locations in yellow (Jocko, Canal, Francis). The Tribal Primitive Area, Belmore Slough and Burnt Cabin Roads are closed.

A PRE-EVACUATION WARNING means you may be in your home. Individuals in this status should not bring back evacuated livestock until the area is downgraded to READY status.

A temporary flight restriction (TFR) is in effect around the fire area. Do not fly unmanned aircraft (drones) near the fire areas, as that is hazardous for pilots, and the firefighters on the ground who rely on aircraft support. Remember, if you fly, we can't!

**Weather:** Red flags warnings are forecast for the area today. Hot and dry weather is expected to continue until the weekend. Temperatures will be near 100 degrees in the valley with near 90 at higher elevations. Relative humidity recovery at night continues to be poor and winds are expected to be from the west at 20-25 mph.

**FIRE RESTRICTIONS:** Stage 2 fire restrictions are in place across the Flathead Indian Reservation. No campfires are allowed, no smoking outside of vehicles, no operating combustible engines from 1 p.m. to 1 a.m., no operating vehicles off designated roads and trails. Stage 1 fire restrictions are in place in Granite County. The following are prohibited until rescinded: Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire except within a developed recreation site or improved site. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials. Visit <https://www.mtfireinfo.org/> for more fire restriction information across Montana. ####