

Tumble Creek Fire Update August 5, 10:00 PM

Start: Afternoon of August 1, 2008. Cause: Lightning

Tom Heintz's Type 2 Northern Rockies Incident Management Team has been assigned to manage the fire. The information number for the incident is 406-328 4958, and 406-328 4959.

Location: Near Tumble Creek, in the West Fork of the Stillwater River drainage approximately 8 miles west of Woodbine Campground, and one mile south of the Absaroka/Beartooth Wilderness boundary. The fire had minimal movement last night and possible movement on the northern side today. The winds today were north north east at eight miles per hour. Temperatures were 76 with relative humidity at 23%.

The public meeting at Nye was attended by forty eight people. The fire is seven miles west of the Stillwater Mine. Two type 1 crews are on the fire and spiked out. Potential for fire growth is medium and the difficulty of the terrain is extreme. No structures are at risk presently. Three heavy helicopters assisted suppression crews by dropping water on the fire. Air tankers flew retardant to the fire and the mobile retardant plant was set up.

Personnel: 132 personnel are currently assigned to the fire. There are three crews, 2 helicopters and 2 water tenders assigned to the fire.

Size: 580 Acres The change in acreage is due to mapping. There is 40% containment.

Closure: An area and road closure is in place in the West Fork of the Stillwater River drainage north to Castle Creek. There are road closures for the West Fork of Stillwater Road, Forest Service Road# 846, and Picket pin Road #2140. In addition the Custer National Forest has issued a fire area closure that includes Trails # 20, 72 and 90 as well as the Initial Creek Campground. The Woodbine campground and trail is open.

Information regarding the Tumble Creek Fire is available at www.inciweb.org , www.co.sweetgrass.mt.us and by listening to FM99.3 The Mountain radio station.