
Sleeper Lakes Fire Blazes 12,000 Acres

The Sleeper Lakes fire pushed past the 10,000 acre mark overnight and this morning, and is now estimated to be 12,000 acres. The fire has grown rapidly, fueled by drought conditions and unpredictable winds. Fire fighters remained on the line all day.

The fire now has a 20-mile long perimeter and is contained only in a small two-mile sector.

The Sleeper Lakes Fire jumped the northern fire line this afternoon, being pushed by gusty southeasterly winds and being urged to exercise precautionary measures, as the fire is pushing in that direction. Precautionary evacuations were held at the Sportsmen's Club and Spile Dam Club. No additional road closures have been announced at this time.

Due to the presence of fire fighting aircraft, air space in the vicinity of the fire is restricted to only authorized aircraft.

The water bomber which had returned to Minnesota after providing much needed service on the second day of the Forest Service contracted helicopter water "bucketship" which was diverted to the Stonington Peninsula to control the fire. Three helicopters from the Army Air National Guard Joint Force Headquarters in Grayling arrived this afternoon and are currently working on the fire.

A burnout effort initiated on Friday along highway M-123 continues to hold, but the fire quickly spread outside its perimeter.

A two track road about 1.5 miles north of the staging area at "4 Mile Corners" is being improved to form the southern more defensible upland boundary on the south as well. Five bulldozers worked this south line to improve it during the day.

Over 110 firefighter and support personnel, 8 bulldozers, 12 water units four volunteer fire department trucks, and Three marsh units from Seney National Wildlife Refuge were also on the fire.

There continues to be no injuries to report and no lost or damaged structures; however several structures in the Cl

Tahquamenon Falls State Park is not threatened at this time. The fire is approximately 10 miles from the park's western

State highway M-123 remains closed. Closure will be assessed on a daily basis as fire operations progress. There are 100 land management personnel continue to fill in the ranks of fireline and overhead staff, but at a cost of not getting out

Fire suppression are still very active, so residents and the general public should continue to avoid the immediate fire

Agencies involved in the fire include the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Hendricks Township, Hulbert and Garfield Township, the local Red Cross Chapter, the Luce County Sheriff's Auxil

Because of the very high fire danger throughout the state, the Michigan DNR will not be issuing Burn Permits.

Residents are also reminded that there are a number of activities that they can accomplish around their properties to ensure personal safety and the safety of their homes and buildings. More Firewise information can be obtained from Michigan DNR at www.michigan.gov/dnr or by calling 1-800-292-3889. More Firewise information can be obtained from Michigan DNR at www.msue.msu.edu/objects/content_revision/download.cfm/revision_id.260104/workspac