

Wildfire updates

Updated Sept. 29—Other than the Ninko Creek fire, the 2009 wildfire season has been generally quiet, reports Michael Dardis, fire-management officer for the Hungry Horse Ranger District. Although there have been as many as a hundred lightning strikes reported, Dardis says that these have resulted in only a few small fires and they are expecting no worse in the coming days. He warned, however, that the season is just starting. Dardis also confirmed that the haze in our area is due to British Columbia fires that do not threaten the North Fork.

On Aug. 2 sharp-eyed local residents spotted a blazing burn pile on Trail Creek, which was reported and quickly contained. Such an incident highlights the need for continued care and vigilance.

To stay abreast of wildfire activity on the Flathead, check the forest's **Fire Information page**. Fire restrictions have not yet been implemented on the Flathead. For information about current restrictions, **click here**. For detailed definitions of Stage I and Stage II fire restrictions, **click here**.

For information about fire activity in our national parks, including Glacier, go to the National Park Service's **Fire & Aviation Management** page, and the Glacier National Park **home page** and **Webcam page**. Also see the NPS **Fire News page**.

For a current interactive, zoom-in map of all wildfires in the country, go to **GeoMAC** (*loads slowly*). Go to the Northern Rockies Coordination Center's **Incident Information page** for a regularly updated list of wildfires, and to **InciWeb's Montana page**. Also see the **National Interagency Fire Center's Web site**.

Also see **The Daily Inter Lake**.

Finally, for tips on how you can protect your property from wildfire, go to the **Fire Mitigation Committee** page.