



FACT SHEET

Sundial/Independence/Cedar Lake/No-see-um Fires

Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2020

Fire Information: 218-248-2411

Incident Names: Sundial Fire, Campsite 44 (formerly 212) Fire, Vermilion South (formerly 213) Fire, Independence Fire, Cedar Lake Fire, and No-see-um Fire

Description: On July 4th and 5th, six wildfires were reported/detected on the west zone of the Superior National Forest both within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) and outside of the BWCAW. Several thunderstorm cells had moved through northeastern Minnesota with lightning activity over the weekend. Additional thunderstorms and rain moved through the area during the evening on July 5 and during the day on July 6. Various amounts of rain has fallen on the fires during the past two days. Rain is also falling on the fire areas today helping crews to contain these fires.

Location: Northeastern Minnesota, St. Louis County and Lake County

Sundial: T66N-R12W Section 33 (BWCAW)

Campsite 44 (212): T64N-R16W Section 35 (BWCAW)

Vermilion South (213): T63N-R16W Section 27 (BWCAW)

Independence: T62N-R11W Section 32

Cedar Lake: T63N-R12W Section 13

No-see-um: T65N-R11W Section 17 (BWCAW)

Status:

Sundial Fire: This fire remains 8 acres in size and has received rain from recent storms. The fire is located in a remote area of the BWCAW south of Iron Lake in the Sundial Primitive Management Area (PMA) and not on any travel routes. It is located about 3.5 miles south of Iron and Crooked Lakes and the Canadian border. A fire crew called this fire 100% contained late in the day on July 7.

Vermilion South Fire (213): This fire is located north of Lake Vermilion and west of the Trout Lake Portage. It is a single tree lightning strike fire and remained at .10 of an acre in size. A fire crew called this fire 100% contained on July 5, controlled on July 6, and out on July 7.

Campsite 44 Fire (212): This fire is located northwest of Trout Lake and was a single tree lightning strike at a .10 of an acre in size. A fire crew called this fire 100% contained on July 5 and out on July 6.

Independence Fire: This is a .5 acre fire located near Birch Lake south of Ely. Fire crews called this fire 100% contained on July 5 and controlled on July 6.

Cedar Lake Fire: This fire is 1.5 acres in size, caused by lightning, and located just northwest of Cedar Lake and north of Ely. Fire crews called this fire 100% contained on July 7.

No-see-um Lake Fire: This fire is located in a remote area of the BWCAW near No-see-um Lake in the Tick Primitive Management Area (PMA). It is a two tree lightning strike fire at a .10 of an acre in size. A fire crew called this fire 100% contained on July 7.

Due to the July 8 weather forecast of severe thunderstorms in the area, all firefighters working in the BWCAW returned from their field assignments at the end of shift on July 7 to ensure personnel safety.

Northeastern Minnesota remains in moderate drought conditions despite storms that have brought some rainfall in recent days. Significant moisture will be needed over several weeks to return to normal conditions. Recent precipitation has temporarily slowed fire activity however, dry days and warm weather could quickly increase the fire danger in the near future. Fire crews are taking the opportunity to refurbish equipment and prepare for the possibility of additional fires.

Resources: In addition to the regular forest engine crews and fire crews the forest has crews from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other National Forests in place who have provided assistance during the response to the recent fires as well as any future fires. Aviation resources available to the Forest include two Beaver Floatplanes, four Type 3 helicopters, two Type 1 helicopters, two Fire Boss airplanes, and two CL-415 water scooper airplanes all equipped for water dropping.

Closures/Campfires Prohibited: The Superior National Forest currently has campfire restrictions in place on the Forest both inside and outside the BWCAW except in specific developed campgrounds. There are no fire specific area Forest Closures at this time.

This will be the final fire fact sheet unless additional activity occurs.

Forest Service
Superior National Forest

