



Braun Fire Fact Sheet

Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 1:00 pm
MNICS Team B, Incident Commander Aaron Mielke

Final Fact Sheet Unless Fire Activity Changes

Fire Information: 218-349-2900, 8:00 am – 8:00 pm

Location: Franklin Township (T118N – R25W); 6 miles north of Watertown, MN and 6 miles southwest of Delano, MN.

Background: The Braun Fire was detected late in the day on November 2, 2022. The Watertown Fire Department conducted initial attack focusing on securing the perimeter of the fire area. Fire Crews noticed that the fire was already burning in organic material in the ground during the first day. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry was contacted and responded with additional personnel and equipment due to the longer duration nature of peat fires. Since then, the fire has continued to burn further into the organic material. Due to the amount of heat and fire in the peat as well as the longer duration and additional personnel needed to work on the fire, Minnesota Type 3 Incident Management Team B led by Incident Commander Aaron Mielke was ordered. Team B assumed command of the fire at 7:00am on November 7, 2022.

Incident Statistics	
Size:	100 acres
Containment:	95 percent
Structures damaged:	0
Structures destroyed:	0
Injuries:	0
Date detected:	11/02/2022
Cause:	Unknown
Resources	
Personnel:	18
Engines:	1
Water Tenders:	0
Excavators:	1
Track Vehicles:	2

Current Status: Yesterday, Conservation Corps Crews removed hose lines and small pump stations as well as finished some repair of suppression lines. Two tracked vehicles with water tanks worked around the fire area to cool and extinguish various hot spots. Contractors with equipment worked to construct temporary small berms around the remaining areas of heat in preparation for flooding that area with water. A contractor began setting up large hose and pump stations in preparation for pumping water from Fountain Lake to the fire area. Several crews and engines were released through the day as their tasks were completed.

Planned Actions: The tracked vehicles will continue to extinguish hot spots throughout the day as needed. The pump and hose contractor will finish setting up the large pumps and hose line and start pumping water from Fountain Lake to the fire area. This will deliver a large amount of water and flood the remaining areas of heat and smoldering peat on the fire. The key to extinguishing peat fires is to expose the burning organic material and then cool it with large amounts of water. Today, and maybe some of tomorrow the large pumps located on Fountain Lake and along the hose line will be operating and generating noise as water is moved to the fire area. This water pumping operation is being coordinated with the DNR Division of Waters. MNICS Team B is planning to return command of the fire to the DNR Little Falls Area Office at the end of the day tomorrow.

Weather: Scattered rain showers, sometimes heavy have been falling over the area since yesterday afternoon. Scattered rain is expected again today. Winds will be 7-10 mph from the south. High temperatures will range from 56-61 degrees with minimum humidity levels of 90-95%.

Cooperating Agencies: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Watertown Fire Department, Delano Fire Department, Mayer Fire Department, Montrose Fire Department, Victoria Fire Department, Cologne Fire Dept.