



Spice Lake Fire Fact Sheet

June 19, 2023

8:00 a.m.

MNICS Team B- Incident Commander Aaron Mielke

Fire Information: 218-248-7240 (8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.)

Email: 2023.spicelake@firenet.gov

Inciweb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-news/mnsuf-spice-lake-fire>

Superior National Forest: www.fs.usda.gov/superior

	Date Detected	Current Size	Containment
Spice Lake Fire	6/13/2023	22 acres	80%

Summary: Late in the afternoon on June 13th, a wildfire was detected between Spice Lake and Ogishkemuncie Lake in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) on the Gunflint Ranger District of the Superior National Forest. Spice Lake is located east of Knife and Kekekabic Lakes and southwest of Seagull Lake, approximately 10 miles west of the Gunflint Trail.

Current Status: Fire activity has been minimal with creeping and smoldering in mixed timber and brush. Fire crews are mopping up and making sure fire perimeter lines hold with the potential for increased winds this week. Mopping up involves putting water on the fire, and using tools to mix it into the soil and duff to extinguish the heat until the area is cooled. Firefighter and public safety are the number one priority. The fire has been initially determined to be human caused and is still under investigation.

Planned Activity: Firefighters are making good progress patrolling and mopping up the fire. In addition, they are working with on-site resource advisors to ensure wilderness values, long-term ecosystem health, and impacts to wilderness are minimized. The nineteen-person hotshot crew that has been working on the fire has reached their 14-day fire assignment limit and will be paddling out today to demobilize from the fire. Thirteen firefighters remain on site at the fire area. No precipitation was received on the fire.

Closure Area: The Superior National Forest has implemented Forest Order (09-09-23-03) for a closure area of lakes, portages, and trails around the fire for public safety. Public safety crews have redirected visitors and posted portages closed. Details can be found at [Superior National Forest - Alerts & Notices \(usda.gov\)](http://www.fs.usda.gov/superior/alerts-notices).

Fire Restrictions: The Superior National Forest has implemented a Forest Order (09-09-23-02) for campfire restrictions due to continued dry conditions and very high wildfire danger. This Order will remain in effect until further notice. See the Superior National Forest website <https://www.fs.usda.gov/superior> for more information on fire restrictions.

Business Update: No businesses along the Gunflint Trail have closed due to the fire and are ready to help with trips and services. If you have an upcoming reservation, please contact your guide or cooperator or the Superior National Forest with questions.

Cooperating Agencies: Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department, National Park Service, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.