



County Rd 11 Fire

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Daily Fire Update

Fire Information: 218-244-1911, 8 am – 5 pm

Email: mnmncc_information@firenet.gov

County Rd 11 Fire Quick Facts

Size: 70 acres

Containment: 10%

Start Date: 9/4/2023

Location: Barnum, MN

Cause: Under Investigation

Resources: 11 - engines, 3 - Dozers,
2 - Water Tenders

Total Personnel: 67

Summary: The County Road 11 fire was detected in a swamp marshland near the Carlton County Roads 8 and 11 crossroads on September 4. Extreme temperatures in the 90s and dry and windy conditions contributed to the rapid-fire growth through swamp marshland grasses and trees. The fire threatened nearby structures. Water-dropping aircraft were brought in to help cool and slow the active fire as firefighters from Minnesota DNR and four local fire departments responded. Initially, six residences were evacuated by the Carlton County Sherriff. The fire activity calmed toward sunset, though it was not considered contained, and local fire departments remained on the scene to monitor the fire's activity.

Operations: Fire firefighters observed increased fire activity yesterday morning as winds picked up ahead of an advancing storm system. Because structures remained threatened, multiple water-dropping aircraft - prepositioned in Minnesota - and two CL-415 water-scooping aircraft from Ontario, Canada, were brought in to support suppression efforts as ground crews worked on establishing dozer line on the west edge of the fire.

The aircraft remained on scene until the severe weather system moved into the area in the late afternoon, requiring the aircraft to return to base for safety concerns. Ground firefighting resources remained engaged on the ground as weather conditions allowed throughout the evening and overnight. Carlton County established a mobile Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to support the firefighting operations, which provides an internet hub and radio communication support.

Yesterday's storm brought over a half-inch of rain to the area. The precipitation helped calm fire activity, but it was not enough to put the fire out. Because the interior of the fire area continues to hold a lot of heat, fire crews will continue efforts today to construct a dozer control line around the fire perimeter. From that control line, crews will begin mopping up – clearing flammable vegetation and debris down to bare soil – to secure the line and hold the fire within the interior. Fire crews plan to map the fire area today.

Weather: A chance of showers and thunderstorms are forecast before 1 pm, with a slight chance of showers in the late afternoon. A high of 60 with north winds 15 mph gusting to 25. Dryer conditions are expected to return Thursday.

Evacuations: *Correction* – Monday evening Carlton County Sherriff evacuated six residences in direct threat of the fire. The Sherriff's office is working with affected residents to return them to their homes, three remain evacuated.

Road Closures: Carlton County Road 8 and 11 are close in vicinity of the County Road 11 fire.

Air Operations: Aircraft are available and may be brought in to help support mop-up efforts. A reminder - flying drones over the fire is prohibited. **If drones are detected near the County Rd 11, any air operations supporting the fire will stop.**

Cooperating Agencies: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and mutual aid from Barnum, Moose Lake, Black Hoof, and Carlton Fire Departments, Carlton County Emergency Management and Carlton County Sherriff's Office