



## County Rd 11 Fire - Daily Fire Update

Saturday, September 9, 2023

MNICS-Team B-Incident Commander-Aaron Mielke

**Fire Information:** 218-432-0953, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Email:** [2023.countyroad11@firenet.gov](mailto:2023.countyroad11@firenet.gov)

### County Rd 11 Fire Quick Facts

**Size:** 82 acres

**Containment:** 85%

**Start Date:** 9/4/2023

**Location:** Barnum, MN

**Cause:** Under investigation

**Resources:** 7 engines, 3 dozers,

2 water tenders, 2 excavators

**Total Personnel:** 30

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### **Operations: Minnesota Incident Command Team B took command of the fire this morning at 6 a.m.**

Today, an infrared aircraft flew the fire to determine hot spots across the fire area. Heavy equipment and ground resources will continue to improve the dozer containment line on the north and south ends of the fire. Firefighters and equipment will continue to assess the fire's east side for safe access and containment opportunities.

Suppression objectives include continuing to mop up the fire to 100 feet in from the fire perimeter. Fire resources will begin scouting for potential areas to flood the hot areas of peat. While the depth of peat varies, some locations are burning deeper. The organic composition of peat soil provides a long-term fuel source for a wildfire to spread underground. Flooding peat areas involves running water from a natural source to heavily saturate the peat. This tactic limits exposure to firefighters working the unstable ground and reduces driving hazards of the local fire departments that have been shuttling water to the fire.

Yesterday, firefighters continued mopping up the control line and clearing any flammable vegetation and debris up to 25 feet into the fire's interior. In addition, the crews worked to excavate some holes in the peat to locate any potential natural water pockets. However, due to the area's droughty conditions, little to no natural water sources on the fire were found. It will require additional effort using heavy equipment to turn and mix the peat soil with bare mineral soil to eliminate the heat the peat soil holds.

**Weather:** National Weather Service forecast – Showers likely, mainly after 5 p.m. Increasing clouds, with a high near 73. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent. New precipitation less than one-tenth of an inch possible.

**Evacuations and Road Closures:** All evacuation orders and road closures have been lifted. Electronic signs have been placed on County Road 11 for safety. Please use caution and be aware of firefighter traffic.

**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, U.S. Forest Service, and mutual aid from Barnum, Moose Lake, Black Hoof, and Carlton Fire Departments, Carlton County Emergency Management and Carlton County Sheriff's Office