

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
Bridger-Teton National Forest
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Thirteen Fires Burning on Bridger-Teton National Forest

Fires continue to burn on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. In addition to the eleven fires started by yesterday's lightning storm, two new fires have been located and are known to be moving quickly through dry fuels. The Buck Fire, present size still being assessed, was reported to have run from one half of one acre to five acres in less than thirty minutes. The West Rim Fire, also a new discovery, is reported to be moving fast. Both fires presently lack the proper resources to provide a full assessment or safe suppression. At this time there are no structural threats from any of these fires. As information on these fires becomes available, we will issue new press releases.

In response to safety concerns, Bridger-Teton National Forest firefighters are pulling back until an assessment of these new fires can be completed. Air tanker attacks have been ordered for both events to try and slow their advance. Staff officers are presently doing a Complexity Analysis to determine if an area or national team should be ordered to handle these events.

As stated earlier, the Haines Index, which measures atmospheric stability on a scale of 1-6 with 6 being the most unstable, is listed as a 6 for today. The Fire Danger Index is High to Very High and the Lightning Activity Level, measured on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest is at 3 for today. Also stated previously, western Wyoming was affected by this storm system after many other forests in the great basin, this has led to limited availability of fire suppression personnel and equipment as many forests are calling in for suppression resources. Given these conditions, forest officials are doing everything possible to carefully assess the situation and provide appropriate response that will ensure the highest level of public and firefighter safety.

For updates, please contact the Bridger-Teton National Forest at (307) 739-5500. Regular updates will follow.