



Ant Park Fire

Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest

Fire Info Line: 406-420-3015 8:00am to 8:00pm

2026.antpark@firenet.gov

<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mthlf-ant-park>



August 7, 2026

Northern Rockies Team 8 - Incident Commander: Nathan Stephens – IC3

Location: 1 mile south of Lost Fork Ridge near the headwaters of the North Fork of the Smith River - 7 miles southeast of Showdown Mountain Ski Area; 15 miles northeast of White Sulphur Springs, MT

Start Date: 7/31/26; 2:54 PM MST

Cause: Undetermined **Size:** 400 acres

Completion/Containment: 27%

Personnel: 214

KEY MESSAGE:

As hotter, drier weather settles over the fire area, firefighters are focused on detecting and suppressing spot fires while reinforcing containment lines. With hose lays in place and water delivery systems operational, crews are positioned to respond quickly to new spot fires. The National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning for hot temperatures, gusty winds, and low relative humidity, which is in effect from noon Friday to 9 p.m. Saturday. These winds are expected to increase the potential for spot fires and active fire behavior. Smoke has settled into nearby valleys, affecting air quality throughout the region. Forest Service Road closures remain in effect to protect public safety and allow firefighters safe access to the fire area.

FIRE OPERATIONS:

On the north and east sides of the fire, crews continue searching for and suppressing spot fires while reinforcing containment lines. An infrared flight identified numerous spot fires on the east side of the fire, resulting in an expanded fire perimeter and an increase in mapped acreage. On the south side, crews continue strengthening established containment lines and searching for heat and hot spots. On the west side, crews remain engaged in mop-up, and extinguishing spot fires.

Incident priorities remain limiting fire spread, protecting critical infrastructure, and maintaining a strong initial response capability should gusty winds produce new spot fires outside the established perimeter.

WEATHER, FIRE BEHAVIOR AND SMOKE:

Hotter, drier conditions have arrived across the fire area. Gusty afternoon winds, low relative humidity, and critically dry fuels are expected to increase fire activity and elevate the potential for spotting overnight. A Red Flag Warning is in effect from noon Friday through 9 p.m. Saturday.

Isolated torching and short-range spot fires remain possible, particularly during the afternoon and evening. Burning continues within the footprint of the 2003 Ant Park Fire on the north end, where heavy dead and down fuels and dry duff continue to hold heat, making mop up challenging.

For current air-quality conditions and smoke forecasts, visit the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's [Smoke Forecast](#).



CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

Road closures and barriers remain in place to protect the public and ensure firefighters can safely access the incident.

CLOSED:

- **Forest Road 6464 at the juncture with Higgins Park and J6467**
- **Forest Road 837 intersection with Forest Service Road 487 (S Fork Deadman meets Memorial Park)**
- **Road 487 heading north closed at the Junction of 487 and 829**
- **Forest Road 47, Jamison Trail, at the Forest boundary**
- **Silver Crest Parking area**

