

# **Fire Incident Report**

## **Meridian Boundary Fire**

**May 19, 2010**

**11 a.m.**

### **Incident Update 1**

Media and Public Information Contact: Mary Dettloff, DNRE, 517-335-3014  
DNRE Fire PIO 989-348-6371, ext. 7449

**Website:** [www.michigan.gov/dnre](http://www.michigan.gov/dnre)

#### **Current Status:**

**Location:** The fire is located in South Branch Township in Crawford County, near the intersection of M-18 and M-72.

**Size:** Approximately 7,520 acres

**Percent contained:** Undetermined at this time

**Structures lost:** Two residences confirmed lost. More information available later today on any other structures lost.

**Injuries/Deaths:** None

**Evacuation Status:** Several residences in the area were evacuated on May 18 and remain evacuated today.

**Road closure/detour status:** M-18 is closed from M-72 to Roscommon County line

#### **Resources Committed to Incident**

**Incident Commander:** Paul Gaberdiel

**Incident Command Center:** DNRE Grayling Field Office

**Agencies on fire:** DNRE, US Forest Service, local volunteer fire departments

**Today's plan:** The plan today is to deploy three fireline skidders, four tractor-plows, nine off-road engines and a task force (one dozer and three engines) from the US Forest Service.

**Weather:** Winds will shift today to the northwest, which will push the south line of the fire. This is a concern because if the fire does escape on the south line, it will threaten the north side of the village of Roscommon. There is a Red Flag warning today for several counties in the immediate vicinity, which means there will be no burn permits issued and citizens should use extreme caution with any outdoor activities or equipment.

**Fire History:**

Fire was first spotted by a DNRE fixed wing aircraft at approximately 1:30 p.m. May 18. The point of origin has been determined and is being investigated. The cause was burning debris. Burn permits were being issued for this county on May 18.

The fire laid down last night as temperatures cooled. The north line of the fire is well established. Crews today are working on the southwest corner of the fire line, where is potential for spotting, and also on strengthening the fire line around the perimeter of the fire. The perimeter of the fire is about 16-17 miles. The northern perimeter of the fire is about one-half mile from the Mason Tract Chapel.

The fire is on state and federal forest land that is mostly jackpine, but it has entered a swampy area and a hardwoods area, which helped slow it down Tuesday night.

US Forest Service is currently assessing whether Kirtland Warblers were actively nesting in this area. More information will be available later from US Forest Service.

**Announcements/ Additional Information:**

An evacuation center has been established at the Resurrection Life Center, located at 2640 W. M-72 in Grayling. The American Red Cross is on the scene to assist evacuated residents. The phone number at the evacuation center is 989-348-1000.

A local state of emergency has been declared in Crawford County.

Roscommon village residents can watch Channel 2 for important updates.

M-18 is closed from M-72 to the Roscommon County line due to fire activity.