



DNR NEWS

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
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Baraga Bump Fire

April 30, 2007 7:30 a.m. update

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Summary:

Sunday, April 29, 2007 was busy day for Upper Peninsula Firefighters. Eleven fires broke out across the UP, ranging in size from less than one acre to over 1000 acres. The largest of these was the **Baraga Bump Fire**. It began as a controlled burn on US Forest Service land two days earlier about 4 miles northwest of Covington near the Houghton-Baraga county line. Forest Service personnel worked the fire hard and by Saturday evening there were no visible smokes. However, extreme red flag conditions including high winds helped the fire re-ignite and escape on Sunday, April 29. The fire grew quickly and safety concerns forced the evacuation of 30 homes in the afternoon, after the fire sped southeasterly and jumped the Sturgeon River. Quick action by firefighters kept the fire away from all structures and the evacuation order was withdrawn at 9:45 pm allowing people to return to their homes when the incident stabilized.

Personnel:

More than 90 Firefighters and 20 Law Enforcement personnel from County, State, and Federal agencies and local Volunteer Fire Departments worked on the fire Sunday utilizing 5 dozers and 11 fire trucks. Six Red Cross Staffers and five local volunteers provided food and local assistance.

Personnel & Equipment:

- 8 DNR Firefighters
- 9 keymen
- 8 DNR Fire Overhead Team
- 18 USFS Firefighters
- 16 BIA Firefighters
- 10 DNR Conservation Officers
- 4 State Police Officers
- 6 Tribal Officers
- 5 Community Volunteers
- 6 Red Cross Volunteers
- 4 Volunteer Fire Depts.:
 - Baraga – 1 truck, 7-10 people
 - Covington – 1 truck, 1 ambulance, 10 people
 - L'Anse – 1 truck, 1 Argo, 1 ambulance, 10-12 people
 - Pelkie – 2 trucks, 1 ambulance, 10-12 people

Status:

The line is still incomplete around the fire and personnel will be working another long day on Monday, April 30, to contain it. A fire overhead team has been brought in to run the fire. It will operate as a joint command between Michigan Department of Natural Resources incident commander Paul Gaberdiel and US Forest Service Incident Commander Bob Garrison.

Specific Information:

Date: Sunday April 29, 2007, early afternoon
Location: T49N R35W Sec 36
Cause: Re-ignited 2 day old controlled burn
Size: 1000+ Acres
Evacuation: Mid afternoon to 9:45 pm – 30 homes