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MN Department of Natural
Resources
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
MN Department of Homeland
Security and Emergency
Management

“Minnesota’s Emergency Response Agencies”

NEWS RELEASE

Date: April 23, 2010

Contact: Tower Complex Fire Information 218-753-2580 ext. 300 Becca or Kathy

Tower Complex Fire – Progress Update

Area Fire Fighting Management Ramped Up

Due to extreme fire conditions a Type 2 Fire Management Team was ordered through the Minnesota Interagency Fire Center on Thursday, April 22, 2010. Type 2 teams are called up when fire fighting is more complex than usual. Dubbed the Tower Complex, this team is currently managing five fires totaling 556 acres.

The Benville Fire was added to the Tower Complex responsibilities Friday morning, April 23. The fire was discovered on Thursday at the junction of Highway 21 and County Road 593/Shaver Road, between Babbitt and Benville. By nightfall, the fire was measured at 6.6 acres. Initial attack of the fire included use of three aircraft: a helicopter with a bucket, a Fireboss floatplane and a P2V tanker with retardant. The St. Babbitt Police Department, Babbitt and Embarrass Fire Departments, USDA Forest Service, the MN DNR, heavy equipment contractors and other local resources responded as well. Highway 21 was closed temporarily due to smoke and fire fighting traffic.

Today’s increased temperature and wind speed has fire fighters on alert. Fire danger indicators are exceeding historic levels in northeastern Minnesota. The area has reached critical fire danger thresholds in multiple measurements.

Everyone is reminded to be extra careful with your outdoor activities and burning restrictions remain in effect. More information is available on:

www.dnr.state.mn.us and www.MNICS.org