

High winds spark blazes near Barr Trail, Incline

By Jeanne Davant

Monday's high winds did more than knock off a few hats and cause an annoyance.

They are to blame for a few wires that were ignited near Barr Trail and the Pikes Peak Cog Railway.

A transformer blew, sparking a small fire, according to the Manitou Springs Fire Department.

Several other small fires were started when the wind toppled power lines. The small fires burned a total of one acre, MSFD said.

Smoke from the fires led to the cog railway shutting down temporarily. Three trains were held back a little, according to cog traffic manager David Donatto.

"The last train got down here around 3 p.m.," he said. "Riders were held up there about an hour longer than planned."

Trains traveling down the mountain were directed to head back up to avoid smoke, Donatto said.

The fires were under control by mid-afternoon and didn't threaten any structures.

[Return to Article Index](#)