

Roaring Lion Fire Update

Friday, August 19, 2016, 7:00 a.m.
Fire Information: (406) 241-4338
Phone hours: 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Bitterroot National Forest, Darby Ranger District, 5 miles southwest of Hamilton, MT.

Information on the activities of the Type 3 Incident Management Team and the status of the Roaring Lion Fire can be obtained by calling 406-241-4338 or by visiting the Bitterroot National Forest Supervisors office at 1801 N First in Hamilton, MT. Information boards will remain in place at the Darby Ranger Station and at the Bitterroot National Forest Supervisors Office in Hamilton.

Yesterday: *The northwest area of Sawtooth Canyon saw a slight increase in activity early in the day. Timely use of aerial support in the form of helicopters dropping water was used to calm the fire activity by cooling the ground fuel. The southeastern portion of the Ward Bowl became more active and continued to burn back into the main fire area. Firefighters in the Ward Bowl area were tasked with assessing fire behavior and directing aircraft to prevent the fire from getting outside established lines.*

Patrolling and mop-up continued around the fire's eastern perimeter and reinforcement of suppression work around homes remains a priority in daily operations. Aircraft support continued to increase over the fire area as activity picked up throughout the day.

Although the hot, dry weather over the past several days repeatedly tested firelines, no smoke or flames have been seen on the eastern edge. This lack of activity along the perimeter and near homes is a good sign and reinforces the quality of work completed.

Smoke will continue to be visible from the interior of the burn area for the foreseeable future and most likely until a season ending event such as substantial rain or winter weather affects the fire area.

Today: A new crew of five fire firefighters will be replacing the current ones in the Ward Bowl area this morning. Additional crews will also be working in the Camas Creek area and will be monitoring and assessing fire activity as well as working to prevent the fire from moving outside the current perimeter area. Aircraft can be expected to be seen over the fire area as activity picks up throughout the day. Engine patrols in and around the fire's east and southeast perimeter will continue to reinforce suppression work around homes. Fire managers intend to continue patrolling and mop-up until they are confident that no re-ignitions near firelines or homes will occur.

Air Operations: Aerial resources, both rotor and fixed wing, continue to be available for use both on this incident and for initial attack. Incident aircraft are providing tactical and logistical support as well as medevac capabilities should the need arise.

STATISTICS	
Detected:	July 31, 2016
Cause:	Under Investigation
Current Size:	8,465 As of 6:00 AM August 18, 2016
Containment:	70%
Structures Lost:	16 residences and 49 outbuildings
Estimated Costs:	\$9,300,000.00
Resources:	
Type 1 Hand Crews:	0
Type 2 Hand Crews:	0
Camp Crews:	1
Dozers:	0
Engines:	7
Water Tenders:	1
Helicopters:	3
Air Tankers:	0
Air Attack:	0
Overhead:	21
Total Personnel:	74

(over)

Flight Restrictions: A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) remains in effect over this fire. *It has been reduced in size to match the perimeter of the fire.* Please check with the FAA or your local flight service station prior to flying in the area of the fire.

Weather and Fire Behavior: Yesterday's cold front brought in cooler temperatures with today's high being near 80. It will be mostly sunny with some clouds, northeast winds of 8-14mph that will decrease throughout the afternoon. Hotter, dryer temperatures look to be returning for the weekend with another cold front possibly on Monday. ***Smoke will continue to be visible from the interior of the burn area for the foreseeable future and is most likely until a season ending event such as substantial rain or winter weather affects the fire area.***

Evacuations: *The evacuation area south of the North Gold Creek Loop Road remains in Stage One Warning and Alert. On roads limited to residents only, permits will be available at roadblocks at the Ravalli Sheriff's office.* Information regarding evacuation areas can be found on the Ravalli County Sheriff's app for mobile phones, their Facebook page and by calling the Ravalli County Sheriff's Office at 406-375-4060 or at the fire information phone numbers listed above.

Closures: Area closures remain in effect. **Camas Creek, Coyote Coulee, Roaring Lion, Sawtooth and Ward Mountain Trailheads are all closed and will remain closed until the risk to the public has been mitigated. The closure also includes the Coyote Coulee trail system and trail #59 up the North Fork of Lost Horse Creek. Observation Point road is also closed. Contact the Bitterroot National Forest or the Fire Information Office for details.**

Residents returning to their homes should be cautious and watch out for fire weakened trees. These trees may appear to be completely healthy, but can fall with little or no warning even without wind influence. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/gut7awn> for additional information.

Cooperating Agencies: Ravalli County Sheriff, Ravalli County Volunteer Fire Departments, Montana DNRC, Red Cross, Montana DOT, Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks and Northwestern Energy.

Additional Fire Information Contacts:

Inciweb http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/	Bitterroot NF Facebook www.facebook.com/DiscoverBitterrootNF
Bitterroot NF Twitter www.twitter.com/BitterrootNF	Bitterroot NF http://bit.ly/29nsEak
Fire Restrictions http://firerestrictions.us/	Fire Information E-mail roaringlionfireinfo@gmail.com
Mobile app for Android http://bit.ly/29yFV1F	Mobile app for Apple http://apple.co/29xbl3H
Facebook www.facebook.com/Ravalli-County-Sheriffs-Office-261112620728766/?fref=nf	