

Roaring Lion Fire Update

Saturday, August 20, 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 five firefighters who were stationed in the Ward Bowl area the last several days were swapped out with a fresh five person crew yesterday morning. An Engine and its crew were working in the Camas Creek area monitoring fire activity and supporting the fire personnel at Ward Bowl. Aerial support was used to calm fire activity and reduce the heat in ground fuel across the fire area. Engine patrols in and around the fire's east and southeast perimeter continued to reinforce suppression work and monitor for smokes around homes.

Today: The crew of firefighters in the Ward Bowl area with the assistance of firefighters in the Camas Creek area will be monitoring and assessing fire activity as well as working to prevent the fire from moving outside the fire perimeter. Aircraft can be expected to be seen over the fire area today as activity picks up. 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. 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: A weak ridge of high pressure will hover the area this weekend bringing in some warmer and dryer temperatures. The dry air mass will have temps in the mid to high 70s. Winds will be minimal, 3-6 mph, and the relative humidity will be in the mid-teens. A dry cold front is anticipated to move through the area 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.

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:	\$9,483,000.00
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:	20
Total Personnel:	73

(over)

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	