

Roaring Lion Fire Update

Monday, August 22, 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.

In the early afternoon yesterday smoke from several Idaho fires began to enter the Bitterroot Valley and overshadow the smoke from the Roaring Lion Fire. The fires putting up the smoke are the Moose, Cedar and the Elk Ridge Fires. All are more than 11 air miles from here.

Yesterday: Westerly winds throughout the day caused fire behavior to increase and become more active. The majority of the activity was from interior green islands of fuel that have been drying out the last several days and have become more receptive to heat. This activity was expected and posed no significant threat to containment lines. A new seven person crew replaced the five firefighters in the Ward Bowl area and with the assistance of Lookouts posted in the Camas Creek area tactics to address any problems that may arise were pre-identified and ready for implementation if needed. The northwestern area of the fire in Sawtooth Canyon had minimal activity today also. Aerial resources were activated early to begin bucket work in Ward Bowl and the Sawtooth Canyon areas. Engine patrols in and around the fire's east and southeast perimeter continued to reinforce suppression work. Fire managers intend to continue patrolling until they are confident that no re-ignitions near firelines or homes will occur.

Today: The seven person crew in the Ward Mountain area with the assistance of firefighters and Lookouts posted in Camas Creek will continue to monitor fire activity and direct aerial resources to prevent the fire from moving outside the containment perimeter. Aircraft will be seen over the area dropping buckets of water and using retardant when needed as activity picks up throughout the day. Engine patrols in and around the fire's east and southeast perimeter will continue to patrol around homes. Fire personnel intend to continue patrolling until they are confident that no re-ignitions near firelines or homes will occur.

Weather: The National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning late yesterday afternoon through 9 p.m. tonight due to the expected combination of winds and low humidity. A breezy day is expected today with temperatures cooler than the past several days. In the early morning, winds will mainly be breezy in the higher elevations, but by mid-morning lower elevations will become breezy as well. Wind gusts up to 35 mph will be possible throughout the day but will decrease overnight. Tuesday brings a weather disturbance with an increase in clouds and higher humidity. A wetting rain is not expected but a few sprinkles may be possible during the afternoon.

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.

STATISTICS

Detected:	July 31, 2016
Cause:	Under Investigation
Current Size:	8,469 As of 6:00 AM August 20, 2016
Containment:	70%
Structures Lost:	16 residences and 49 outbuildings
Estimated Costs:	\$9,600,000.00
Resources:	
Camp Crews:	1
Engines:	7
Water Tenders:	2
Helicopters:	3
Overhead:	30
Total Personnel:	75

(over)

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

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	