

Roaring Lion Fire Update

Thursday, August 25, 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.

Yesterday: The interior of the fire experienced minimal activity again yesterday. Aerial resources are still being used in the Ward Bowl area as well as in the Sawtooth Canyon area. Patrolling continued in the fire's east and southeast perimeter areas. The Incident Command Team intends to continue these patrols until they are confident no re-ignitions will occur near firelines or homes.

Today: Fire Managers, a helitack crew and two engines will be onsite when they implement a firing operation. The area is a small spot in the southeastern portion of the fire over 1000 feet interior from the perimeter. The spot is described as a "dirty, spotty burn area", that will continue to hold heat and produce smoke. By performing this operation fire personnel will reduce the potential of continued ignition and smoke in this area. The firefighters that were stationed in the Ward Mountain area will be brought down at end of shift today. They, with the assistance of firefighters and Lookouts posted near Camas Creek, have been directing aerial resources to calm fire activity and to prevent the fire from moving outside the perimeter lines. Aircraft will continue to be seen in the area, dropping buckets of water and using retardant when needed. Engines in and around the fire's east and southeast perimeter will continue to patrol around homes.

Weather: Today will be mostly sunny with a slight chance of a rainstorm. Temperatures will be in the high 70s with winds being mainly light and out of the northeast. For Friday, a partly cloudy day is expected and we will see the return of westerly wind gusts during the afternoon. The weather will be trending back to warmer and drier through the weekend.

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.

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.

STATISTICS

Detected:	July 31, 2016
Cause:	Under Investigation
Current Size:	8,533 As of 6:00 AM August 25, 2016
Containment:	70%
Structures Lost:	16 residences and 49 outbuildings
Estimated Costs:	\$9,956,000.00
Resources:	
Camp Crews:	1
Engines:	7
Water Tenders:	2
Helicopters:	3
Overhead:	35
Total Personnel:	99

(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	