

Roaring Lion Fire Update

Saturday, August 27, 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.

Air Operations: 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.

Please check with the FAA or your local flight service station prior to flying in the area of the fire.

Yesterday: The Incident Management Team, Bitterroot National Forest and local cooperators began selecting unneeded fire lines for repair at the north end of the fire. Existing fire lines are being put back to their original slope, seeded and water-barred as needed to minimize erosion. Any fences that were cut during line building will be fixed after machinery and firefighters finish their repair work. The remainder of the fire experienced minimal activity. Aerial resources are still being used and patrols remain in the fire's east and southeast perimeter areas. These patrols are to be continued until fire personnel are confident no re-ignitions will occur near firelines or homes.

Today: Fire suppression repair work will continue from the north end of the fire working south. Single trees, stumps and roots that are still burning interiorly are becoming visible to engine patrols in around the east and southeast perimeters. Felling of these trees and mop up of the surrounding area continues. Lookouts posted at and up the Camas Creek area are monitoring fire behavior and directing aerial resources to calm the fire activity to prevent the fire from moving outside the perimeter lines. Aircraft will be seen in the area, utilizing water and retardant when needed.

Weather: Mostly cloudy but warmer temperatures are expected today. Winds are expected to increase in the afternoon with possible wind gusts up to 30 mph. Temperatures will be in the high70s to low 80s with humidities in the upper teens. This warming and drying trend will continue into tomorrow and into early next week, with breezy afternoon winds.

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.

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:	\$10,259,000.00
Resources:	
Camp Crews:	1
Engines:	4
Water Tenders:	2
Helicopters:	1
Overhead:	29
Total Personnel:	67

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	