

Roaring Lion Fire Update

Sunday, August 28, 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: Suppression repair work continued beginning in the north end of the fire working south. While minimal activity was observed on the remainder of the fire, patrols continued in the fire's east and southeast perimeter areas. Aerial resources, both rotor and fixed wing, will be available for use both on this incident and for initial attack.

Today: Suppression damage repair work is proceeding as unneeded fire lines are selected for repair. These fire lines (both hand lines and dozer lines) are being put back to their original slope, seeded and water-barred as needed to minimize erosion. Single trees, stumps and roots that are still burning interiorly are becoming visible. 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. Aircraft may be seen in the area, utilizing water and retardant when needed.

Weather: Westerly winds will continue today into Monday leading to gusty winds up to 25mph during the afternoon hours. Mostly cloudy with a high in the low 80s, the weather will continue to be dry with humidities dropping into the teens.

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.

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:	\$10,292,000.00
Resources:	
Engines:	4
Dozer:	1
Helicopters:	1
Overhead:	27
Total Personnel:	56

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	