

Roaring Lion Fire Update

Monday, August 29, 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: While minimal activity was observed on the majority of the fire, patrols identified a small 1.5 acre green island area that was becoming active. Helicopters worked with Lookouts to deliver several loads of water onto the spot to cool it down. Additionally firefighters used a pump and hose line to address another smoke lower down from the green island before mopping it up. In the fire's east and southeast perimeter areas, monitoring patrols continued. The hand crews and excavator performing the repair work kept working in the north end of the fire as they work their way south.

Today: Lookouts posted at and up the Camas Creek area are monitoring fire behavior and directing aerial resources. Helicopters and fixed wing aircraft may be seen in the area, utilizing water and retardant when needed. 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.

Weather: This morning will start out sunny and clear but clouds will begin to intrude as the day goes on. High temperature today will be 84 with relative humidity in the mid-to-high teens. Light winds out of the south, southwest will increase to gusts up to 22mph in the afternoon. Tomorrow there will be a slight chance of thunderstorms late in the evening with gusty winds but little to no chance of a wetting rain.

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.

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 28, 2016
Containment:	70%
Structures Lost:	16 residences and 49 outbuildings
Estimated Costs:	\$10,379,000.00
Resources:	
Engines:	4
Dozer:	1
Helicopters:	1
Overhead:	26
Total Personnel:	55

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	