

Roaring Lion Fire Update

Tuesday, August 30, 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 hand crews and the excavator working on the suppression damage repair completed the work on the north end of the fire and began the work in the southern portion.

Minimal fire activity was observed for most of the day, however when wind gusts began picking up in the afternoon several spots within the interior became active and visible. Lookouts worked with aerial resources to use bucket work to cool the spots down. In the fire's east and southeast perimeter areas, monitoring patrols continued.

Today: Suppression repair work progresses as unneeded dozer and fire lines are selected for restoration. These areas are being put back to their original slope, seeded and water-barred as needed to minimize erosion. Lookouts are posted at and up the Camas Creek area and will be monitoring fire behavior and directing aerial resources. Helicopters and fixed wing aircraft may be seen in the area, utilizing water and retardant when needed.

Weather: Warmer than normal temperatures are expected today with a high of 86 possible. Winds will be minimal out of the south-southwest with relative humidity in the low teens. Weak disturbances will support isolated and mostly dry showers and thunderstorms through the next couple of days.

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:	\$10,427,000.00
Resources:	
Engines:	4
Dozer:	1
Helicopters:	1
Overhead:	22
Total Personnel:	54

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	