

# FACT SHEET

## Condon Mountain Fire

Swan Lake Ranger District

September 23, 2012 8:30 a.m.



Information Officers: Katie Knotek, Colter Pence & Ted Pettis  
Fire Information Line: (406) 754-0127 w/answering machine  
Office hours: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**New Email: [condonmountainfire@gmail.com](mailto:condonmountainfire@gmail.com)**

**Incident:** The Condon Mountain Fire was started by lightning on 7/28.

**Location:** Approximately 4 miles northeast of Condon, MT.

**Agency Jurisdiction:** USDA Forest Service, Flathead National Forest; Montana DNRC, Swan River State Forest

**Cooperating Agencies:** Swan Valley Rural Fire Department, Lake County Sheriff's Office, Missoula County Sheriff's Office, Missoula County Emergency Services, Lake County Emergency Services, Swan Ecosystem Center

**Incident Commander:** Shawn Pearson, Northern Rockies Type II Incident Management Team (IMT). The Incident Command Post (ICP) is located at the Condon Work Center.

**Current Size:** 3,980 acres

**Containment:** 40%

**Structures Threatened:** 12

**Status:** The fire is burning in heavy timber with dead, standing whitebark pine, Douglas-fir, and subalpine fir. The fire area consists of steep, hazardous terrain with high potential for rollout, spotting, and snags. The fire is located just west of the Bob Marshall Wilderness and is visible from Highway 83. There structures in the valley bottom are within 1 ½ miles of the current fire perimeter. All residents in the Condon area are under a "Ready" Stage 1 Alert of the potential for future evacuation. However, there are no evacuations in effect at this time.

**Yesterday's Activities:** The fire was again active with short crown runs and single tree torching. Construction of the mechanical fuelbreak along Road 9762 was extended from Cooney Mountain Lookout toward Road 905 in Rumble Creek. Helicopters were used for water bucket drops to cool hotspots. The Flathead National Forest issued an Area Closure around the fire for public safety. See InciWeb for written Closure Order and map.

**Current Resources:** **Five** 20-person crews, **nine** engines, **fifteen** pieces of heavy equipment, **three** water tenders, and **five** helicopters. Total personnel: **167**.

**Today's Activities:** Temperatures today will be slightly lower with increased relative humidity to 25%, and variable, light winds. Today, the fire is expected to continue backing into the Cooney Creek drainage on the southern flank and toward the Swan River Valley on the western flank. Short uphill runs are also likely to occur. Crews will continue improving constructed fuelbreaks north of Cooney Creek and are assessing opportunities for additional burnout operations if needed. Aerial resources with water drops will be used for a direct attack on the fire.

**Restrictions/Closures:** Trail #29 (Smith-Little Salmon) & Trail #192 (East Foothill) are closed. A temporary flight restriction (TFR) is in effect surrounding the Condon Mountain Fire area and the Condon Airstrip is closed to all non-fire aircraft until further notice.

**For further information,** visit: [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org); Select "Condon Mountain"