

Fact Sheet
8:00 AM

**Gibraltar Ridge Fire
and
Caribou Fire
September 6, 2017**



Fire Information Line: 406-272-2082

Location: Gibraltar Ridge Fire located seven miles east of Eureka, MT **Current Size: 7,291 Acres**

Cause: Lightning **Containment: 27%** **Personnel: 74**

Email: GibraltarRidgeFire2017@gmail.com **Inciweb:** <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5474/>

Location: Caribou Fire located 21 miles northwest of Eureka, MT **Current Size: 19,985 Total Acres**

Cause: Lightning **Containment: 10%** **Personnel: 195** **United States: 17,897** **Canada: 2,088**

Email: CaribouFire2017@gmail.com **Inciweb:** <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5539/>

Firelines Strengthen Community Defenses, Fire Growth is Minimal.

Weather: Today's winds will be light and variable, and a persistent inversion will continue to create smoky conditions. High pressure will bring warmer and drier weather through Thursday.

Caribou Fire: Yesterday, the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office announced that the Caribou Fire has claimed 10 homes and 30 outbuildings. In West Kootenai, fire crews improved the fireline to the west and north, while building a contingency fireline to the south. Overnight, firefighters patrolled the fireline and searched for spot fires. Fire crews also monitored fire conditions in the Basin Creek area, southwest of the fire, where structure protection measures have been put in place. Yesterday's cooler temperatures and lighter winds reduced fire activity, but also created smoky conditions and reduced visibility that prevented aircraft from operating in the fire area.

Today, structure protection crews will use heavy equipment to improve the fireline southeast and north of West Kootenai, and extend the southern contingency fireline south of the community. Firefighters will continue night patrols to protect homes. Additional ground and air resources have been assigned to the fire, but aircraft will not be able to resume operations until smoke clears and visibility improves.

Caribou Evacuations: A full Evacuation Order is in effect for West Kootenai area north of Tooley Lake. A Pre-evacuation Warning is in effect for the West Kootenai area south of Tooley Lake, and the Basin Creek area.

Caribou Fire Closures: A Closure Order is in place for the Caribou Fire. Closure Orders and maps under the "Closures" tab on Inciweb.

Gibraltar Ridge Fire: Yesterday's cooler weather slowed the fire's gradual movement down the steep slope into the Williams Creek drainage, and northeast toward Jiggs Creek. Structure protection measures to have been completed to protect homes along Grave Creek. Firefighters continue mop-up, while patrolling and monitoring the fire's gradual growth into the Williams Creek and Jiggs Creek drainages.

Gibraltar Ridge Evacuations: A Pre-Evacuation Warning remains in effect for the Sherman Creek, Griffith Creek, Therriault Pass Road, Stevens Creek, Glen Lake and Sinclair Creek (south/east of West Road) areas.

Gibraltar Ridge Closures: Grave Creek Road and the Ten Lakes Recreation area are closed above the Grave Creek/Foothills Road junction. Closure Orders and maps under the "Closures" tab on Inciweb.

Resources Threatened for both fires: Private property, structures, historic resources, recreational resources, timber, terrestrial and aquatic habitats.

Fire Restrictions: Lincoln County and the Kootenai National Forest are in Stage II Fire Restrictions due to Extreme Fire Danger. **For information on fire restrictions, please visit firerestrictions.us**