



Copper King Fire Update

Thursday, September 8, 2016, 8:00 a.m.

Fire Information: (406) 826-9048 - Phone hours: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Email: copperkingpio@gmail.com

Location: Lolo National Forest, eight miles east of Thompson Falls; one mile north of Highway 200.

Incident Command: The Copper King Fire is being managed by Roger Staats' Northern Rockies Type 2 Incident Management Team.

Yesterday: Firefighters continued to patrol and mop up along containment lines around the southern, western, and northern fire perimeter. Suppression repair activities, including erosion control efforts along hand and dozer lines, began in earnest. Along the southeastern fire perimeter in the Munson Creek area, firefighters continued improving control lines in the event that a firing operation becomes necessary.

Today's Weather and Fire Behavior: A fast moving upper level trough came through the fire area yesterday, bringing clouds, some wind, as well as some light, sporadic precipitation. Today's weather should be similar to yesterday, but increasing winds are predicted through this afternoon. Although heavy fuels within the fire's interior and along the southeast fire perimeter may dry enough to visibly burn today, no significant fire spread is expected due to the weather conditions.

Today's Planned Actions: Crews will continue to patrol and mop up control lines around the southern, western, and northern fire perimeters. They will continue to remove slash and clear debris along the ACM road in addition to clearing rolling debris from the other roads as necessary. Firefighters will continue to fall hazard trees along the north and northeast flanks of the fire. Firefighters working along the southeastern flank of the fire will continue to strengthen and improve control lines in preparation for potential firing operations. Suppression repair will continue on any control line that is no longer needed for perimeter control.

Air Operations: A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) remains in effect over this fire. Please check with the FAA or your local flight service station before flying near the fire. *Remember, if you fly a drone around the fire, we cannot fly.*

Area and Road Closures: A closure surrounding the fire area is in effect for lands, trails and roads administered by the USDA Forest Service, Montana DNR, Sanders County and Weyerhaeuser. Please see Inciweb more details and maps.

For questions specific to evacuation levels or permitted access within closure areas, please call the Sanders County Sheriff's office at [\(406\) 827-3584](tel:4068273584), extension 3. For inquiries specific to the other agencies involved, contact the Plains Unit of the DNRC at (406) 826-4724, Weyerhaeuser at [\(406\) 892-6238](tel:4068926238), or the Montana FWP Kalispell office at [\(406\) 752-5501](tel:4067525501). For all other inquiries about the fire, contact Copper King Fire information at [\(406\) 826-9048](tel:4068269048). The implemented closure is temporary and will be assessed daily among the jurisdictions involved. The order will be modified or rescinded when conditions allow.

The Little Thompson River Road will remain closed to the general public, from mile 3 to its intersection with the Thompson River Road at mile marker 17. The ACM Road will also remain closed, from the mouth of Thompson River to mile marker 17.

Evacuations: As per Sanders County Sheriff's Office, pre-evacuation alert levels remain in effect for the following areas: the Mud Creek area, the homes along Highway 200 (from the mouth of Thompson River up to and including Buffalo Bill Creek), as well as for the homes between mile markers 3 and 4 on the Little Thompson River Road.

Air Quality Alert: Check the Montana Department of Environmental Quality website at deq.mt.gov/Air.

For Copper King Fire information: inciweb.nwcg.gov

Cooperating Agencies: Lolo National Forest, Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC), Sanders County, Sanders County Sheriff, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

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STATISTICS	
Detected:	July 31, 2016
Cause:	Under Investigation
Current Size: (Unchanged since September 3, 2016)	28,534 acres
Containment:	70%
Structures Lost:	None
Estimated Costs:	\$25.155 Million
Resources Assigned:	
Type 1 Crews:	1
Type 2 Crews:	7
Camp Crews:	2
Dozers:	0
Engines:	12
Water Tenders:	11
Helicopters:	5
Air Attack	1
Total Personnel:	445