



Copper King Fire Update

Saturday, September 10, 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: Containment lines along much of the fire perimeter continued to hold. However, the southeastern fire perimeter is in very rugged terrain in the western side of the Munson Creek drainage, complicating containment in that area. Crews continued suppression repair activities around the western and northern fire perimeter. Equipment and crews made good progress removing debris and slash along the ACM road, and excavators and hand crews continued installing erosion control along fire lines no longer necessary for control. Along the southeastern flank of the fire, firefighters capitalized on the recent rain and reduced fire behavior and began constructing some direct fire line along an unnamed ridgeline in the upper end of Munson Creek to help check fire spread.

Today's Weather and Fire Behavior: High pressure will continue in the fire area for part of today, bringing the potential for lower relative humidity and warmer temperatures. As fuels begin to dry out today more smoke could be visible, however minimal fire movement or spread is expected. By late Saturday, the high pressure could begin to move out of the area, and another unsettled weather pattern could return.

Today's Planned Actions: Crews will continue suppression repair work along the southern, western, and northern control lines that are no longer needed for perimeter control. Firefighters working along the southeastern flank of the fire in the Munson Creek area will try to construct additional direct fire line to help prevent fire spread into the eastern side of that drainage.

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 pertaining to the closure. The implemented closure is temporary and will be assessed daily among the jurisdictions involved. The order will be modified or rescinded when conditions allow.

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 Little Thompson River Road remains closed to the general public, from mile 3 to its intersection with the Thompson River Road at mile marker 17. The ACM Road is also 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 Mudd 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.

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.

###

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:	\$25.317 Million
Resources Assigned:	
Type 1 Crews:	1
Type 2 Crews:	5
Camp Crews:	3
Engines:	12
Water Tenders:	10
Other Heavy Equipment:	9
Helicopters:	2
Air Attack:	1
Total Personnel:	363