



# Copper King Fire Update

Sunday, September 11, 2016, 8:00 a.m.

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

Email: [copperkingpio@gmail.com](mailto: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's actions:** An infrared flight was possible late Friday to help detect possible hotspots within the Copper King Fire, which enabled more accurate acreage calculations and resulted in a minor size increase. Most of that approximately 19 acres in growth occurred early last week during more active burning along the southeast flank of the fire, in the western side of the Munson Creek drainage. Hand crews in the upper end of Munson Creek were able to complete some strategically-important direct hand line, which should help decrease the potential for spread in that area. Elsewhere around the fire, crews continued suppression repair, including erosion control along fire lines no longer necessary for control, as well as removing debris and slash along the ACM road.

**Today's Weather and Fire Behavior:** Sunday is predicted to begin ushering in unsettled weather in advance of a cold front. Cooler temperatures, higher relative humidity, and the potential for winds are likely by late Sunday and Monday, and will likely dramatically lower the potential for fire spread.

**Planned Actions:** Sunday's operations will be more of the same, with crews focusing on suppression repair work along the southern, western, and northern control lines that are 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 still 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 The order will be modified or rescinded when conditions allow.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.nwccg.gov](http://inciweb.nwccg.gov)

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

STATISTICS	
<b>Detected:</b>	July 31, 2016
<b>Cause:</b>	Under Investigation
<b>Current Size:</b> (Unchanged since September 3, 2016)	28,553 acres
<b>Containment:</b>	75%
<b>Structures Lost:</b>	None
<b>Estimated Costs:</b>	\$25.813 Million
Resources Assigned:	
Type 1 Crews:	1
Type 2 Crews:	5
Camp Crews:	2
Engines:	12
Water Tenders:	9
Other Heavy Equipment:	9
Helicopters:	2
Air Attack:	1
<b>Total Personnel:</b>	<b>345</b>