

Lolo Peak Fire 406-272-5433



Lolo National Forest



PNW Team 3, Noel Livingston, Incident Commander

Fire Update – August 10, 2017 9:00 a.m. (MDT)

Lolo Peak Fire Information Briefing: Tonight, August 10, @ 7:00 p.m., Lolo Community Center, 12345 Hwy 93, Lolo, MT.

Weather and fire behavior: Temperature today will be in the 80's and relative humidity will be as low as 15-percent, with winds generally light, 3-7 mph with gusts to 12 mph. Smoke in the area is lighter today so with more direct solar heating portions of the fire's northern edge may see increased activity, primarily in Cedar Creek, the South Fork of Lolo Creek and Johnny Creek. Some single tree and group torching and short runs up slope may occur, making the fire more visible to residents in the Hwy 12 corridor. There is a chance for isolated thunderstorms. A windy period is forecast by Sunday with a dry, windy cold front passing Monday.

Yesterday: Fire growth was minimal, with most of the activity southeast of Lolo Creek. Crews are maintaining pumps, hoses and sprinklers to ensure they will be ready to protect homes and reinforce the fire line, if needed.

Today: Firefighters efforts are ongoing to manage fire growth to avoid an alignment where wind, topography and fuels, which could allow for rapid growth to the northeast toward homes and structures along U.S. 12 and the town of Lolo. Fire activity is expected to be moderate today, but continuing to spread west down toward the South Fork of Lolo Creek where firefighters will be improving smaller containment blocks as fire backs downhill.

To the southwest, crews have completed work on the primary containment line, tying into a bare rock outcrop near the old "Rocky Fire" scar. Firefighters are scouting for opportunities and constructing alternate containment lines using old road beds along the valley bottoms in the Highway 12 and 93 corridors.

Lolo Peak fire fighters are ready to assist the local national forests and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation with extinguishing new fire starts in the Lolo Peak Fire area of operations. Fire danger remains extreme in the region and new ignitions could spread rapidly, especially in the valleys where it's hotter and the grass, trees, and shrubs are drier. Isolated thunderstorms will be a concern daily through Saturday evening, with increasing SW winds 10-20mph expected on Sunday. Much cooler Monday.

Evacuations/Closure Information: No Evacuations are in effect. An Evacuation Warning remains in place for the south side of Highway 12 from Fort Fizzle, west to the intersection with the Elk Meadows Road, including the Mill Creek Road area. This is not an order to evacuate, only a warning so citizens can prepare should evacuations become necessary.

Highway 12 remains open. Please do not stop along the road to view fire activity as it creates a traffic hazard.

Quick Facts Incident Summary	
Size:	7,644
Start Date:	July 15, 2017
Cause:	Lightning
Incident Commander:	Noel Livingston, PNW Team 3
Resources on the Fire	Crews: 8 Engines: 9 Helicopters: 5 Dozers: 3 Water Tenders: 13
Total Personnel	377
Jurisdiction	USDA Forest Service, Lolo National Forest
Helpful Links	
Fire Safe Montana: http://firesafemt.org	
Firewise Communities: http://www.firewise.org/?sso=0	
Montana DNRC: http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/fire-and-aviation/fire-prevention-and-preparedness	

Additional Lolo Peak Fire Information

Stop by the **Firewise trailer** on the eastside of the intersection of Hwy 12 and Hwy 93 or the Florence-Carlton School for the most current fire information.

Blog: lolopeakfire.wordpress.com

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5375/>

Facebook: LoloNationalForest or DiscoverBitterrootNF

Stage II Fire Restrictions are in effect for Missoula and Ravalli Counties and across the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests. A temporary flight restriction remains in place surrounding the fire. This **restriction includes “drones” or unmanned aerial vehicles. If drones are detected, air operations will stop. “If you fly, we can’t!**

Closures: The Bitterroot National Forest issued an Amendment, on August 1, 2017 for the Lolo Peak Fire that now includes Bass Creek NFSR #1136, beginning at the junction of NFSR#1316 and the Charles Waters Campground and through section 32, T.10N, R20W. The Charles Waters Campground remains open.

The Area Closure was Amended, on July 27, 2017 for the Lolo Peak Fire and now includes the following roads and trails as well as those encompassed by the area closure intersecting with open roads and trails; Elk Meadow Road (NFSR #451) from Junction US Hwy 12 to the Clearwater National Forest Boundary, West Fork Butte Road (NFSR #37) from the West Fork Butte Lookout to the intersection with the Elk Meadow Road (NFSR #451), Mormon Peak Road (NFSR #612), South Fork Lolo Creek Road (NFSR #2160), Small Creek Road (NFSR #4292), West Fork Butte Trail (NFST #320), Mill Creek Trail (NFST #1310), Sweeney Trail (NFST #393), and Bass Creek Trail (NFST #4). For specific road, trail and area closure information please visit the Inciweb website.

The fire is under the jurisdiction of the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests and the Montana Department of Natural Resources (MTDNRC).

Missoula County residents can receive emergency notifications of critical alerts via their choice of text, phone and/or email by signing up at **Smart911.com**. Residents in Ravalli County can download the **Ravalli County Sheriff’s app** to their mobile devices to receive critical information notifications.

FireWise Message:

Is your home fire-safe? While nothing is ever fire-proof, there are some things you can do to protect your home and community now. Here are just a few actions you can take:

Clean out gutters, sweep decks and clean off your roof. These places can catch wind-driven embers that will ignite your home.

- Remove leaf clutter and branches overhanging the roof. Vegetation should not touch the home.
- Make sure that there are no flammable materials within 3 to 5 feet around the building.
- Dispose of plant debris according to local regulations.
- Keep your grass cut short and well-watered within a 30 foot radius of structures.
- Store firewood away from the house.
- Organize a neighborhood cleanup day. By helping your entire community, you’ll be providing better protection to yourself.
- Helpful Links:
 - ✓ Fire Safe Montana: <http://firesafemt.org/>
 - ✓ FireWise Communities: <http://www.firewise.org/?sso=0>
 - ✓ Montana DNRC: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/fire-and-aviation/fire-prevention-and-preparedness>

Cooperators: The city of Stevensville, Ravalli & Missoula County Government; Ravalli County Sheriff’s Office; Missoula County Sheriff’s Office; Lolo School District; Missoula Rural Fire; Florence VFD; MDOT; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Carlton and Bass Lake Irrigation; Florence – Carlton School District; Ravalli and Missoula County DES; Private Landowners

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