



FIRE UPDATE

North Tullock Fire

Tuesday, August 2, 2016, 4:00 PM

Contact: Crystal Beckman, Fire Information Officer, 406-370-8755, dnrcat.team@gmail.com (cell service and internet is limited at this time)

Location: 15 miles NE of Hardin, Big Horn County, MT

Start Date: Sunday, July 31, 2016

Type of Incident: Wildfire

Size: 3,600 acres

Containment: 0%

Cause: Lightning

Protection: Big Horn County

Ownership: Private, State and small portions of Crow Tribe Land

It is a hot, dusty and dry day for crews on the North Tullock Fire.

Firefighters have been working hard since the fire ignited Sunday. Local responders from Big Horn County are transitioning off the fire today to rest-up and prepare for what new fires may occur in the coming days. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) County Assist Team assumed management of the fire this afternoon. The team is working with firefighters on the fireline, checking-in new resources as they arrive and setting up camp. Engines, water tenders, dozers and hand crews are in route. The team is working with local, state and federal partners to implement a full suppression strategy to put the fire out as safely and quickly as possible. Firefighter and public safety is the number one priority.

Like most fire managers across of Montana, the DNRC County Assist Team is keeping a close eye on the incoming weather. "Communication is key when a Red Flag Warning is in place," states David Hamilton, Incident Commander. "We want to make sure that everyone has a heads-up of the incoming weather and knows that the priority is their safety before putting the fire out." A Red Flag Warning means that it is a critical fire weather day (hot, dry and windy) and the potential for erratic fire behavior and fire growth is high. The warning is in effect until Wednesday at 9:00 PM.

Currently the North Tullock Fire is burning timber, brush and grass in steep rugged terrain that is very hard to access by vehicle. Air operations are assisting with these hard-to-get locations. Fixed-wing aircraft is pre-treating unburned areas along the fires perimeter with fire retardant while helicopters drop water in the fires interior to cool hot spots. A dozer line is in place around the fire. Keeping the fire from spotting out will be the challenge for the day.

HIGH FIRE DANGER: Taking extra steps to prevent a wildfire from starting is paramount. Hot temperatures, dry vegetation and forecasted weather greatly increase the chance of ignition. Fire season is in full swing and firefighting resources are in demand across the US, by preventing one fire we can further protect firefighters, residents and public and private lands.

- Have water, fire extinguisher and equipment on-hand when working in the fields
- Check trailer tires and chains when towing
- Do not park or pull over vehicle into dry grass



Smoke rises as crews conduct a burn operation to manage fire before windy conditions arrive.