



FIRE UPDATE

North Tullock Fire

Wednesday, August 3, 2016, 1:00 PM

Contact: Crystal Beckman, Fire Information Officer, 406-370-8755

Email: dnrcat.team@gmail.com

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

Start Date: Sunday, July 31, 2016

Type of Incident: Wildfire

Size: 2,600 acres

Containment: 20%

Cause: Lightning

Protection: Big Horn County

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



Aircraft laying retardant line Tuesday

Resources Assigned

Engines: 16

Air Tankers: 0

Overhead Personnel: 34

Hand Crews: 1

Helicopters: 1 available

Total Personnel: 175

Smokejumpers: 18

Water Tenders: 5

Bulldozers: 4

Helitack: 2

Current Situation

Today firefighters, engines, dozers and water tenders hit the fireline early to begin mop-up, patrol for flare-ups and extinguish hot spots. Smokejumpers and hand crews are hiking into steep rugged terrain to work where equipment cannot access. It will be a critical day for the fire. The Red Flag Warning is in effect until midnight tonight. If all holds through the afternoon and evening things will start wind down.

The North Tullock Fire lost steam yesterday evening after a successful burn operation occurred on the east and west sides of the fire. Burn operations are conducted to remove unburned vegetation within the fire's perimeter that could later ignite and spread. Conducting controlled burns when conditions are appropriate and safe lowers the fire's potential to burn with great intensity. Firefighters safely put out spot fires and utilized air resources to cool interior burning. Through the crews' hard work the fire moved to 20% containment Tuesday evening.

The fire was first reported Sunday, July 31, 2016. Big Horn County firefighters were the first to respond and did great work while more resources arrived Monday from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Southern Land Office. The DNRC County Assist Team, Incident Commander David Hamilton assumed management of the fire Tuesday afternoon. 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.

HIGH FIRE DANGER: Southeast Montana is extremely dry with high potential for new starts to occur. By preventing one fire we can further protect firefighters and residents.

- Have water, fire extinguisher and equipment on-hand when working in fields.
- Put out all campfires by stirring with water until cold to the touch.
- Adjust trailer chains so that they are not dragging on the ground.
- Take extra care with combustion engines and equipment.
- Avoid driving and parking cars, trucks, or off road vehicles on dry grass.





**Montana Department of
Natural Resources and
Conservation**

8001 N. Montana Avenue
Helena, MT 59602
406.218.1417
dnrcat.team@gmail.com
twitter.com/MTDNRCFIRE



Monday's burn operation



Crews patrolling for spotting - Tuesday



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Firefighter igniting burn operation - Tuesday



Smoke from Tuesday's Burn Operation