



FACT SHEET

Bierney Creek Fire

August 23, 2016 6:30 pm

Contact: Fire Information Officer, Ali Ulwelling (DNRC)

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InciWeb: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4980/>

What: Wildland Fire

Location: Bierney Creek, Lakeside, Montana

Started: August 22, 2016 about 4pm

Current Size: ~80 Acres

Containment: 0%

Jurisdiction: DNRC & Somers Fire Department

Cause: Under Investigation

Narrative: The Bierney Creek Fire is holding at 80 acres with line around 70% of the perimeter. Due to the high number of spot fires the interior of the fire still contains a large amount of unburned fuel, so overall containment is still considered low. Fire activity was considered moderate with some isolated and group tree torching, but progress was made with the help lower temperatures and decreased winds. Fire managers estimate that approximately 75 structures are within a half mile of the fire line; no structures have been lost at this time.

No mandatory evacuations have been ordered, and all evacuations to this point have been voluntary. The evacuation strategy being used by the Flathead County Sheriff's Department is, "Ready, Set, Go." and residents with homes within the fire perimeter and in the Bierney Creek area are being contacted to prepare for evacuation, should that become necessary. The Sheriff's Department has set up a checkpoint on the Bierney Creek Road and only residents are being allowed past that point. Please minimize all traffic in the Bierney Creek area as road conditions are narrow, dusty, potentially hazardous, and may impact firefighting operations.

The Bierney Creek Fire was reported Monday afternoon around 4pm. High winds and low relative humidity led to active fire behavior and high rates of fire spread. Initial attack engines and aerial resources including heaving tankers and helicopters worked into the evening to slow the fire with retardant and water drops. Several engines were on scene through the night, helping the fire hold with minimal fire behavior.

Strategies: This fire is being managed with full suppression and direct perimeter control with assistance from aerial resources.

Resources on Fire: Cooperating agency resources for today include: 1 20-person Type 1 Crew (Flathead Interagency Hotshot Crew), 1 20-person Type 2 crew (with an additional 20-person crew ordered), 2 dozers, 9 engines, 1 Type 1 Kmax helicopter, 1 medium helicopter, and overhead.

Agencies Involved: Flathead County Fire Departments, Montana DNRC, and Flathead National Forest.

Notices:

- While there are no mandatory evacuations at this time, people in the Bierney Creek area should be aware of the possibility of evacuation. Evacuations are coordinated by the Flathead County Sheriff's Department and will be communicated as conditions change.
- There are numerous actions that folks can to prepare for a wildfire by keeping a 5-foot noncombustible perimeter around your home and any attachments, by cleaning out gutters of all leaf and needle debris, and creating "survivable space" around your home.
- No debris burning is allowed from June 1 through September 30.

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