



FACT SHEET

Bierney Creek Fire

August 24, 2016 9:00 am

Contact: Fire Information Officer, Ali Ulwelling (DNRC)

Fire Information Phone: 406-758-2111

Email: aulwelling@mt.gov

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

What: Wildland Fire

Location: Bierney Creek, Lakeside, Montana

Started: August 22, 2016, 4:00pm

Current Size: ~80 Acres

Containment: Containment is 0% with fire line built around 70% of the fire

Jurisdiction: DNRC & Somers Fire Department

Cause: Under Investigation

Narrative: Fire behavior was minimal on the Bierney Creek fire during the night. It remains at an estimated 80 acres with line built 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 considered low. Fire activity was considered moderate with some isolated and group tree torching yesterday, 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.

Crews spent yesterday searching for spot fires, strengthening and building fire line around the perimeter, and putting water on hot spots near structures. Weather for the day includes the possibility of rain and thunderstorms, which fire managers will take into account as the day goes on. All fire management decisions are being made with firefighter and public safety as the primary concern.

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" residents with homes within the fire perimeter and in the Bierney Creek area have been contacted to prepare for evacuation, should that become necessary. The Sheriff's Department has set up a checkpoint on the Bierney Creek Road, residents are only 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.

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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