



FACT SHEET

Bierney Creek Fire

August 25, 2016 9:00 am

Contact: Fire Information Officer, Ali Ulwelling
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: ~60 Acres
Containment: Containment is 20%
Jurisdiction: DNRC & Somers Fire Department
Cause: Under Investigation



Narrative: Today crews will resume gridding for hot spots and mopping up. Yesterday they mopped up around structures, continued to secure the fire perimeter, and worked to find and extinguish spot fires inside and outside of the fireline. High winds and active fire behavior Monday afternoon tossed embers onto the forest floor resulting in countless small spots of smoldering heat. These could quickly grow under dry or windy conditions. So while smoke was light and fire behavior was minimal to moderate on the fire, there is still a fair amount of heat on the ground and forest fuels available to burn.

More accurate mapping has calculated the size of the fire to be 60 acres, and fire managers estimate that approximately 75 structures are within a half mile of the fire line; no structures have been lost.

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 greater Bierney Creek area have been contacted to prepare for evacuation and remain in the "Set" stage through a possible wind event predicted for the weekend.

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.

Strategies: This fire is being managed with full suppression and direct perimeter control. Aerial resources are available if needed.

Resources on Fire: Cooperating agency resources for today included: 2 20-person Type 2 crews, 1 dozers, 9 engines, and overhead.

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

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