



Rattlesnake Fire

Saturday, September 3, 2016

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Website: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5006/>

Start Date: Thursday, September 1, 2016

Type of Incident: Wildfire **Size:** 900 acres

Cause: Lightning **Containment:** 10%

Protection: MT Dept. Natural Resources and Conservation

Land Ownership: Private

Location: 5 miles NW of Canyon Creek, Lewis & Clark County, MT



Resources Assigned

Engines: 17

Air Tankers: Available

Smokejumpers: 5

Hand Crews: 3

Helicopters: 2

Overhead Personnel: 35

Bulldozers: 2

Water Tenders: 3

Total Personnel: 156

Current Situation

Today's Activities: Crews will work to build and improve firelines, burnout where needed and mop-up. There are no evacuations or structures threatened at this time.

Weather: Temperatures are expected to be cooler and relative humidity is expected to be higher with a chance of isolated thunderstorms. While winds are expected to be calmer on the valley floor, they may still be gusty and erratic along exposed hillsides and if associated with the isolated thunderstorms. Even cooler temperatures and rain are predicted on Sunday.

Closures: Rattlesnake Gulch Road is closed. Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks has issued closures for the following areas: Canyon Creek Wildlife Management Area and the Sieben Block Management Area.

Overview: The expected fire growth that was anticipated yesterday did not occur. Fire behavior was moderated by the cloud cover despite the windy conditions. Fire crews worked hard Friday to reinforce existing fireline, mop-up where possible, and minimize fire spread in the areas with unburned fuel, fuel concentrations and indirect fireline.

The Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) County Assist Team, Incident Commander David Hamilton, assumed command of fire Friday morning. The team is implementing a full suppression strategy to put the fire out as safely and quickly as possible.

Safety Message: Please use extra caution on Lincoln Road (Hwy 297) as fire traffic will be entering and exiting the area. It is important not to stop or block roadways.

Cooperating Agencies

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Fish Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Canyon Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Lewis and Clark County Commissioners & Sheriff's Office.