



## Rattlesnake Fire

Monday, September 5, 2016, 9:00 am

**Contact:** Crystal Beckman, Fire Information Officer

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

**Start Date:** Thursday, September 1, 2016

**Type of Incident:** Wildfire                      **Size:** 582 acres

**Cause:** Lightning                                      **Containment:** 90%

**Protection:** MT Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation

**Land Ownership:** Private

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



### Resources Assigned

**Engines:** 11

**Hand Crews:** 2

**Bulldozers:** 1

**Helicopters:** 1

**Water Tenders:** 6

**Smokejumpers:** 5

### Current Situation

Crews headed out to the fireline this morning to continue mopping-up. The fire area received little rain last night; however precipitation is starting to increase. An infrared flight yesterday discovered an area in the fire that was holding a lot of heat. This area contained deep layers of organic material; the area resembles an old livestock holding, as it is just above a cabin. Water tenders and a dozer aided the firefighters in breaking up the material and cooling it off. Work is continuing in this area today to ensure it is out completely.

Yesterday crews made great progress extinguishing hot spots and mopping-up. Timbered areas in Rattlesnake Gulch provided for plenty of work as the larger fuels (timber) hold heat longer than grass and brush.

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.

Weather: Cool, cloudy, and rainy.

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.

Safety Message: Please use extra caution on Lincoln Road (Hwy 279) 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.