



## Custer Gallatin National Forest

10 E Babcock, Bozeman, MT 59715

Web: [www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin](http://www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin)

# News Release

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## ***Bridger Foothills Fire September 5, 2020***

**Start date:** September 4, 2020

**Location:** NE of Bozeman, MT, approx. 2.5 miles up from M parking lot, near Bridger Foothills Trail.

**Cause:** Under Investigation

**Total Personnel:** 110

**Current Size:** 400 acres

**Containment:** 0%

**Inciweb:** <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7144/>

**Hwy 86/Bridger Canyon Road is closed from the intersection of Story Mill/Bridger Canyon Road to Kelly Canyon/Bridger Canyon Road.**

**Local resident travel only permitted until further notice.**

**COVID hotline: 406-548-0123**

**Forest Area & Trail Closures:** All trails from Middle Cottonwood up to Saddle Peak and tying in with Bridger Bowl's southern boundary and running south to the "M" parking lot are closed including:

**Trail #586 (Middle Cottonwood), #513 (Bridger Ridge), #534 (Bridger Foothills), #531, (Sypes Canyon), #511 (M trails), #532 & #530 (Bridger Bowl up to Ridge), #537 & #538 (Pine Creek - Bridger Bowl to South) are closed. Drinking Horse is closed, Do not travel paved pathway along Bridger Canyon – it is in the closure area.**

**Resources Assigned:** 2 large airtankers, 4 single engine air tankers, 4 helicopters dropping water and providing structure protection, Midnight Sun Interagency Hotshot Crew, smokejumpers, 1 type 2 handcrew, with additional crews, dozers and helicopters arriving this morning. Structure protection has been in place overnight and will continue through today from Bozeman Fire, Bridger Canyon Fire, Hyalite Fire and numerous local resources.

**Current Status:** The Bridger Foothills Fire burned actively Friday afternoon and evening in timber and is estimated at 400 acres. Gallatin County and Custer Gallatin National Forest personnel swept the fire area and trails to ensure all trail recreationists were safe. Structure protection is occurring on the eastern flank of the fire and will remain in place.

**Planned Actions:** The Bridger Foothills Fire is extremely visible from the entire Gallatin Valley. Expect aircraft to begin on the fire early. Firefighters are building fireline focused on the eastern flank of the fire, with structure protection in place. Additional handcrews will be utilized to further build fireline and air support utilized throughout the day. A small burnout operation was conducted last night to further secure fireline.

**Weather:** Saturday is a critical fire weather day with warm temperatures and low relative humidity expected. Winds are anticipated to be shifting 10-15 mph with gusts to 25 with a cold front passage around 6:00 p.m. this evening followed by cooling temps and another cold front Sunday. The Red Flag Warning is in effect from noon to midnight on Saturday. Cooler temps over the fire are expected by Monday.