



Bridger Foothills Fire Morning Update

September 11, 2020 – 9:00 am

Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team - Dan Dallas, Incident Commander

Information Center: 406-219-7052 (8:00 am to 8:00 pm)

Media Inquiries: 406-219-7136

InciWeb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7144/> Email: 2020.bridgerfoothills@firenet.gov

Bridger Foothills Fire Story Map: <https://arcg.is/1eqjm0>

Special Notes: Northern Rockies Team 5, a Montana-based Type 2 Incident Management Team, has been ordered and will take command of the incident at 8:00 pm on Saturday, Sept. 12. They will have a transition period with the Rocky Mountain Type 1 Team, who will leave Sunday morning, likely to another fire assignment elsewhere.

Gallatin County, Montana DNRC, Custer Gallatin National Forest, and the Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team continue their strong partnership in suppressing this wildfire and assisting residents affected by the fire.

Current Situation: The fire is 8,224 acres with 68% containment. There are still isolated pockets of heat throughout portions of the fire area. Residents can expect to see occasional smoke in interior portions of the fire until more precipitation arrives. The most concentrated areas of heat are along the northern and western edges of the fire where crews continue to work. Given weather conditions today, the most active burning period will start around noon. The south flank, much of the east flank, some of the north flank, the large spot near Jackson Creek Road, and the west flank to the forest boundary are contained. Today's fire suppression activity: crews will continue to build line on the north flank near the Division D/Division H break. Helicopters will use water drops to cool spots on the north flank. The timber taskforce (a team of skilled logging equipment operators who, under direction of fire operations staff, removes trees to make a fuel break) continues to establish a contingency line in heavily timbered areas directly north of the fire. Crews are hot-spotting, cold-trailing, and building handline along the west and south flanks and checking and re-checking around structures on the east flank.

Weather & Fuel Conditions: Generally quiet weather at the fire site will continue today. Today will be sunny with temperatures in the upper 60s to lower 70s. Fair humidity recovery again tonight will result in any active burning tapering off quickly. Hot and dry conditions are expected through the weekend.

Evacuations and Closures: Bridger Canyon Road remains closed to the public from Boylan Road to Brackett Creek. *This includes bikers and runners.* The section of road is open for residents only. Effective Friday, September 11 at 10 AM, Bridger Canyon Road will open for service providers that are requested by residents, such as contactors, construction crews, insurance personnel and trash companies. Residents and others should stay off the roads from 7 AM to 10 AM, and from 6 PM to 8 PM to allow fire crews to travel.

For further details on these openings see the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/gallatincountysheriffsoffice/> or <https://www.gallatinmedia.org/>

The area closure and maps for the Custer Gallatin National Forest is listed on the Forest Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CusterGallatinNationalForest/>) and on InciWeb (<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7144/>).

It is important to remember that the area is closed to all human entry, including the roads and trails within the closure area. The Custer Gallatin Forest is re-evaluating the closure daily and will adjust the boundaries as soon as it is safe to do so.

Bridger Foothills Fire Statistics:

Size: 8,224 acres

Containment: 68%

Total Personnel: approximately 361

Location: NE of Bozeman, approx. 2.5 miles up from M parking lot, near the Bridger Foothills trail

Reported: September 4, 2020

Cause: Under investigation

Resources Include: Air resources include 2 medium helicopters and 1 light helicopter. Other personnel and equipment include 3 Interagency Hotshot (Type 1) hand crews, 8 Type 2 hand crews, 22 engines, 4 water tender, and 3 dozers.

