



Bridger Foothills Fire Evening Update

September 11, 2020 – 9:00 pm

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.

To continue addressing the needs of people directly impacted by the Bridger Foothills Fire, the Southwest Montana COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster), in coordination with Gallatin County Emergency Management, the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office and the Custer Gallatin National Forest, will be offering numerous options for assistance to impacted residents on Saturday, September 12. For more information <https://www.gallatinmedia.org/?p=7532>.

The US Forest Service, with support from the Gallatin County Sheriff's office, has completed the initial investigation to determine what started the Bridger Foothills Fire. The fire was first reported on September 4, 2020. Investigators have announced that the likely cause of the fire appears to be the result of a hold-over lightning strike. Investigators will continue following up on any additional leads received prior to releasing a final cause determination. For more information: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/custergallatin/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD802672>.

The Bridger Foothills Fire Video Operations Update for September 11, 2020 is available at https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=616395749037686&external_log_id=5db10a6c-76e7-4af0-9318-9dca64538969&q=custer+gallatin+national+forest.

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 72% containment. Minimal fire behavior was observed on the fire today again. The south flank, most of the east flank, some of the north end, and the west flank to the National Forest boundary are contained. Today's fire suppression activity: crews continued to build line on the north end near the Division D/Division H break. Helicopters dropped water to cool spots on the north end. The timber taskforce (a team of skilled logging equipment operators who, under direction of fire operations staff, removes trees to make a fuel break) continued to establish a contingency fuel break in heavily timbered areas directly north of the fire. Crews continued hot-spotting, cold-trailing, and building handline along the west and south sides and checking and re-checking around structures on the east flank. Burned Area Emergency Rehab (BAER) team resources are beginning assessments along the Bridger Ridge trail and in the Pine Creek drainage.

Weather & Fuel Conditions: Generally quiet weather continued at the fire site today. Temperatures rose to the mid-70s this afternoon with relative humidity in the upper teens. Temperatures will drop into the upper 30s

tonight in the higher elevations with good humidity recoveries again around 60%. Saturday through Monday looks to continue the warming and drying trend with winds out of the southwest. Chance of showers Tuesday and Wednesday.

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 and 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 are listed on the Forest Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CusterGallatinNationalForest/>), on InciWeb (<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7144/>), and on the Custer-Gallatin National Forest webpage (https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd802593.pdf).

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: 72%

Total Personnel: approximately 373

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 2 Interagency Hotshot (Type 1) hand crews, 8 Type 2 hand crews, 13 engines, 2 water tender, 1 ambulance, and 2 dozers.

