



**NORTHERN ROCKIES  
INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM 5**  
Joe Sampson,  
Incident Commander

#### INCIDENT STATISTICS

**Location:** Custer Gallatin NF  
3 miles NE of Bozeman, MT  
**Start date:** September 4, 2020  
**Size:** 8,224 acres  
**Percent Contained:** 77%  
**Cause:** Lightning

#### Resources Assigned:

- Total personnel: 349
- Engines: 11
- Type 1 "Hot Shot" crews: 1
- Type 2 Hand crews: 6
- Helicopters: 2
- Dozers: 1
- Water tenders: 1

#### SUMMARY:

The Bridger Foothills Fire started about 3 pm on Friday, September 4, 2020. Initial attack forces responded, but were unsuccessful in halting the fire, given the extreme dry and windy conditions.

By Friday night the fire had grown to about 400 acres. Local resources attempted extended attack on Saturday, but a frontal passage with strong winds pushed the fire to an estimated 11,000 acres. Through better mapping, the estimate was scaled back the following day to 7,000 acres.

#### SAFETY:

There is a Temporary Flight Restriction in place over the fire area.

Wildfires are a NO DRONE ZONE. If you fly, we can't. Flying a drone near a wildfire can shut down all air operations.

#### COOPERATORS:

Gallatin County  
Montana DNRC  
Custer Gallatin NF

# BRIDGER FOOTHILLS FIRE

September 13, 2020 - 8:30 a.m.

#### CURRENT STATUS:

Rocky Mountain Type 1 Incident Management Team transferred command of the fire to the Northern Rockies Type 2 Incident Management Team 5 yesterday evening.

Acreage remains at 8,224 acres. Containment increased to 77%. The south side of the fire, a large portion of the east and west sides, and the large spot east of the fire are contained.

The fire exhibited minimal fire behavior, with creeping and smoldering. Similar activity is expected today. On the south side of the fire, crews will continue to monitor, patrol, and mop-up as needed. They will begin suppression repair along the southern flank of the fire. On the western flank, crews grid for hot-spots, mopped-up, and secured the area. Heavy equipment continued to build a fuel break in heavily timbered areas directly north of the fire and will likely finish the contingency line in another day or two. Along the Hwy 86 corridor to the east of the fire, crews mopped-up and patrolled the area. Crews will continue to mop-up and monitor areas around structures. Smoke from other fires on the west coast could affect air operations today.

#### WEATHER/FIRE BEHAVIOR:

There was poor relative humidity recovery overnight. Temperatures are expected to reach the high 70s, with relative humidity in the lower teens. Ridgetop winds up to 15 mph are predicted, with lighter winds at lower elevations. A weak cold front is expected to cross the fire area Monday, with breezy winds. A Red Flag Warning is in effect for Monday afternoon, given low relative humidity and gusty, shifting winds. Cooler weather and a chance for precipitation are predicted for Tuesday and Wednesday. Smokes, interior to the fireline, may be visible as larger fuels continue to smolder and burn out. Drift smoke from other fires in the West is expected to enter the local area.

#### EVACUATIONS/CLOSURES:

Bridger Canyon Drive from Boylan Road to Brackett Creek Road is **closed** to the public. This includes bikers and runners.

The entire Bridger Canyon Road is open FOR RESIDENTS ONLY. Residents should reduce speed and watch for fire traffic. Residents should also refrain from using the roads from 7 am to 10 am and from 6 pm to 8 pm to allow for safer travel by fire crews. For more information, see <https://www.gallatinmedia.org/>.

There is an area closure from the Custer Gallatin NF around the fire area. This closes the area, roads, and trails to all human entry. The Forest is re-evaluating the closure daily and will adjust boundaries according to the situation on the ground.

#### SPECIAL MESSAGES:

Fine fuels have cured and dried out, available to ignite and burn under the right conditions. People recreating or spending time outdoors are reminded to be careful with activities that could cause a spark, potentially igniting new wildfires. One Less Spark = One Less Wildfire.



Fire Information Line: 406-219-7052 (8 am to 8 pm)

Media Inquiries: 406-219-7136

Inciweb: [inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7144](https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7144)

Email: [2020.bridgerfoothills@firenet.gov](mailto:2020.bridgerfoothills@firenet.gov)

Facebook: CusterGallatinNationalForest