



**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: 287
- Engines: 8
- Type 1 "Hot Shot" crews: 1
- Type 2 Hand crews: 5
- Helicopters: 2
- 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.

COOPERATING AGENCIES:

Gallatin County
Montana DNRC
Custer Gallatin NF

BRIDGER FOOTHILLS FIRE

September 13, 2020 - 8:00 p.m.

CURRENT STATUS:

Acreage remains at 8,224 acres. Containment remains at 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. Today, crews located, isolated and put out hot-spots interior to the fire's edge. Firefighters worked to secure the perimeter on the northeast corner, addressing heat sources and "gridding" non-burned areas. Resources are also working on suppression repair. Heavy equipment continued to build a fuel break in heavily timbered areas directly north of the fire and will likely finish the contingency line tomorrow. Crews will continue to mop-up and monitor areas around structures, locating hot-spots and removing residual heat. Smoke from other fires on the west coast and predicted gusty winds could affect air operations.

Resources also assisted with and successfully contained a new start east of Bozeman.

WEATHER/FIRE BEHAVIOR:

A Red Flag Warning is in effect for tomorrow afternoon, given very low relative humidity and gusty winds. Temperatures are expected to reach the low 80s, with relative humidity in the single digits. Ridgetop winds up to 30 mph are predicted, with lighter winds at lower elevations, shifting from the SW to the W. Cooler weather and a chance for precipitation are predicted for Tuesday and Wednesday. Poor relative humidity recovery tonight could result in an extended burn period tomorrow. Smokes, interior to the fireline, may be visible as larger fuels continue to smolder and burn out. There is potential for fire spread in the finer grass fuels if heat moves from timbered areas to the more open areas. Drift smoke from other fires in the West is expected to remain in the greater Bozeman 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.

Folks are reminded to completely extinguish campfires; the local Forest has responded to 6 abandoned campfires in the last 24 days. Drown, stir and feel until cold to the touch.



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

Media Inquiries: 406-219-7136

Inciweb: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7144

Email: 2020.bridgerfoothills@firenet.gov

Facebook: CusterGallatinNationalForest