



Bridger Foothills Fire Evening Update

September 9, 2020 – 9:08 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: Montana Governor Steve Bullock, Lieutenant Governor Mike Cooney, and Major General Matthew T. Quinn, the Montana Adjutant General visited the fire today.

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.

REMINDER: Please do not fly drones near the Bridger Foothills Fire. If you fly your drone it can shut down all air operations on the fire. We ask that you respect this rule so we can ensure all firefighting activities are carried out safely and effectively.

Current Situation: Cool nighttime temperatures and recent precipitation have limited fire spread. Acreage increased to 8,224 acres today due to more accurate mapping. Containment increased to 52%. Today's fire suppression activity: on the southwest side of the fire in Division A, crews were inserted by air and will spike out along the fire perimeter; they began securing the fire's edge to the north. In Division D (west side of the fire) crews flew to Baldy Mountain and began building direct handline towards the south. Division Y and the Structure Group worked from the Bridger Canyon Fire station to the Beasley Creek Road checking and securing structures and conducting hazard mitigation. In Division H (east and north side of the fire), crews were hot-spotting, cold-trailing, and building handline. On the north side firefighters continued to scout opportunities for direct line construction. Crews will continue to build hand and dozer lines over the next 2-3 days. A timber taskforce assessed potential for fuel break construction in heavily timbered areas directly north of the fire.

Weather & Fuel Conditions: Fire behavior was limited today. Temperatures rose into the 60s this afternoon with relative humidity around 30%. Forecasted: Temperatures will drop into the 30s tonight with fair humidity recoveries around 50-55%. Continued warming and drying on Thursday ahead of a weak cold front that will cross the fire area Monday with breezy north/northwest winds. The weekend looks to be warm and dry with afternoon humidity in the upper teens.

Evacuations and Closures: Additional changes in evacuations and road closures are expected to occur at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow. 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 for the Custer Gallatin National Forest is listed on the Forest Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CusterGallatinNationalForest/>.

Bridger Foothills Fire Statistics:

Size: 8,224 acres

Containment: 52%

Total Personnel: approximately 337

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 incident helicopters and 2 shared T1 helicopters if needed. Other personnel and equipment include 3 Interagency Hotshot (Type 1) hand crews, 8 Type 2 hand crews, 20 engines, 1 water tender, and 3 dozers.

