



Lemonade Fire Incident Update

Flathead National Forest, Montana
Tally Lake Ranger District

September 8, 2022
9:00 a.m.

Total Acres: 636 | **Containment:** 0% | **Start Date:** September 1, 2022 | **Cause:** Lightning
Location: 21 miles west of Kalispell near Marion | **Personnel:** 176

Highlights: Despite the Red Flag conditions yesterday, there was limited fire growth to the north, which had been a concern. Heavy equipment operators continued to make progress despite the winds; however, aircraft were grounded for much of the day, and there was limited crew engagement on the southwestern side due to hazard trees.

Operations: The strategies put in place during the initial stages of the fire are proving successful, and operations are building on those. Heavy equipment task forces continue to construct firelines around the perimeter using dozers, skidgers, and feller bunchers. Hand crews are being strategically used to hold, maintain, and further secure lines. In addition, fire managers continue to look for opportunities to go direct, fighting the fire right on its edge when safe.

A few spot fires occurred on the north side of the fire yesterday. Firefighters utilized helicopter water drops and were able to contain them. Retardant hasn't been needed on the fire the past few days.

Today reduced winds should allow firefighters to take advantage of aviation resources if needed.

Weather and Fire Behavior: A cold front moved into the area, causing cooler temperatures, higher humidity, and calmer winds. Temperatures will be in the upper 60s in the fire area today, with 25-30% relative humidity. Winds will be northwest 10-15 with gusts to 20 mph. Plantations on the north perimeter are still a barrier, although there has been some spotting on that edge that crews have picked up. As the wind shifts to the northwest in the next few days, there could be increased fire activity on the southwestern edge in the heavy dead and down trees. Today's rates of spread will be much less than they were in yesterday's Red Flag conditions.

Evacuations: Currently, there are no evacuations; however, one property is under pre-evacuation notice.

Closures: Griffin Creek Road (NFS #538) and Forest Service Trails 210, 211, and 287 are closed to the public. The closures are for public and firefighter safety as equipment, crews and aircraft are working extensively in the area.

Temporary Flight Restrictions: A temporary flight restriction is in place over the fire area, including the use of drones. Remember, if you fly, we can't.

Smoke: Visit <https://deq.mt.gov/air/Programs/smokeforecasts> for Montana Department of Environmental Quality smoke forecasts.

Fire Information Office Hours: 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Phone: 406-272-4859 | **Email:** 2022.lemonade@firenet.gov

Online: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/8379/> | www.facebook.com/discovertheflathead | <https://twitter.com/flatheadnf>