



Colt Fire Fact Sheet



Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Fire Protection
Lolo National Forest and Flathead National Forest Land Management

NORTHERN ROCKIES TEAM 1

INCIDENT COMMANDER: BRENT OLSON

Fire Information: 406-247-0922 2023.Colt@firenet.gov Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ColtFire>
<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtmts-colt-fire>

Saturday, August 5, 2023 at 9:00 am

Location: 15 miles northwest of Seeley Lake, Montana

Start Date: 7/17/2023

Cause: Lightning

Size: 7,179 acres

Containment: 23%

Total Personnel: 596

Engines: 15

Helicopters: 5

Hand Crews: 14

KEY MESSAGE

This is a transition and shadow day on the fire. NR Team 1 has reached the conclusion of our 14-day assignment. NR Team 5 has arrived and following the shadow day today, will transition into command of the Colt Fire at 6:00 am on August 6, 2023. The transition of teams on wildfires is a regular occurrence and both teams are working towards a seamless and safe transition. Fire crews and equipment remain engaged on the fire and will continue to be through this transition.

CURRENT STATUS

Fire activity was subdued yesterday as monsoonal moisture arrived in the upper atmosphere and cloud cover moved over the fire area. However, persistent dry conditions at the surface keep the potential for fire spread high. The forecast calls for cooler temps, higher humidity levels, and a chance of rain over the weekend. While acreage was added yesterday, the fire size is still listed as 7,179 acres since there wasn't an overnight infrared mapping flight to verify the increase.

Yesterday, along the east side of the fire and Forest Road 646 (Colt/Uhler Road) engine crews patrolled, monitored, and mopped up where needed. On the north side, crews continued to hold and mop up along road and control lines. On the western side, personnel used road systems to construct control lines and prepared indirect lines for potential firing operations. In the southwest corner there continued to be active fire while crews and equipment continued construction of indirect fire control lines ahead of the fire edge in locations with the highest probability for success. Crews continued to construct handline along the south side working to the west and staying north of the West Fork of the Clearwater River. The Structure Protection Group patrolled the Highway 83 corridor and continued to assess structure protection needs for the Lindbergh Lake area. Helicopters were used for water bucket drops as needed.

PLANNED ACTIONS

In the southwest corner of the fire heavy equipment and crews will continue to construct indirect control lines. Along the west side, crews will prepare roads and handlines and use hose lays to secure and mop up the fire edge. On the north and east sides of the fire, personnel will patrol, hold, and mop up where needed. Crews that have been working from east to west on the south side of the fire north of the West Fork of the Clearwater River will continue handline construction. The crews are working in steep terrain and the handline construction is slow and steady. Helicopters will be used to cool hot spots and slow fire spread. Operations personnel from both teams will work together on all sides of the fire to transfer knowledge and situational awareness to provide for a safe and efficient team transition.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

On Saturday, high temperatures in the fire area will range from 64-69 degrees and relative humidity levels ranging from 52-57%. There is a 55-65% chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Winds will be from the east at 10 mph with gusts up to 15 mph.

EVACUATIONS AND CLOSURES

The Missoula County Sheriff's Office Evacuation Warning and Order summary:

- Residents on Beaver Creek Road (near the summit) are under an Evacuation Warning.
- Mile marker 31 (Beaver Creek Road at the intersection of Hwy 83) south towards Seeley Lake to mile marker 27, and including residences in Rovero Flats, are under an Evacuation Warning.
- Residences beginning at mile marker 27, south end of Rovero Flats, to mile marker 25.5 (the intersection of the West Fork of the Clearwater Road and Hwy 83) are under an Evacuation Warning.
- Residences on the north and south ends of Lake Inez are under an Evacuation Warning. The east side of Lake Inez, along Hwy 83, is not under any Warning or Order.

If conditions rapidly change an Evacuation Order may be issued with no prior notice or warning. Home and property owners in the surrounding area should remain vigilant and prepared. Have an evacuation plan for family, pets, and livestock; sign up for emergency alerts at [Smart911.com](https://www.smart911.com); and be familiar with the Missoula County evacuation process and what an order and warning means by clicking on the following link: <https://www.missoulacounty.us/government/public-safety/office-of-emergency-management/evacuation-information>. For evolving Evacuations and Warnings please visit the Missoula County Sheriff's Office Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MissoulaCountySheriffsOffice>.

The Lolo and Flathead National Forests have closed several forest roads, areas, and campgrounds near the fire area for public safety. The list of current closures includes:

- Forest Road 906 (closed at Highway 83)
- Rainy Lake Campground access road 4357 (closed at Highway 83)
- Rainy Lake Campground
- Alva Lake Campground access road (closed by gate at Highway 83)
- Alva Lake Campground
- Lakeside Campground access road (closed by gate at Highway 83)
- Lakeside Campground
- Lake Inez Campground
- Forest Road 646 (closed at the junction of FSR 552); FSR 4354; Forest Road 552 (beyond the turn off to west side Lake Inez access)
- Forest Road 5407 and 463 closed beyond the West Side snowmobile trailhead (these roads access the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Marshall Wildlife Management Area and Lake Marshall)

TEMPORARY FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS

A Temporary Flight Restriction is in place for air space over the Colt Fire (**FDC 3/7867**) to provide a safe environment for firefighting aircraft operating in the area. An airport closure is in place for the Condon Airstrip (**FDC 07/110**) for firefighting helicopter operations. Remember that temporary flight restrictions also apply to unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or drones. **If you fly, we can't!**