



NORTHERN ROCKIES TEAM 5

INCIDENT COMMANDER: JOE SAMPSON

COLT FIRE

AUGUST 10, 2023

Location: 15 miles northwest of Seeley Lake, Montana **Information Line:** 406-247-0922
Start Date: 7/17/2023 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 7,202 acres **Containment:** 45%
Total Personnel: 579 **Engines:** 9 **Helicopters:** 6 **Hand Crews:** 12

CURRENT STATUS

Crews pulled hose lays and pumps from the northeast corner of the fire. However, crews will leave pumps and hose lays in place from Colt Lake westward. On the southern and northern edges of the fire, crews continued mop-up work and patrolled for remaining spots of heat along the fire's perimeter. To the south, crews furthered their handline construction, aided by heavy equipment.

The unmanned aerial system (UAS) successfully mapped out areas of heat along the fire's northern perimeter yesterday. The data from the UAS flights provide vital information to firefighters to pinpoint heat in the fire area that is too dangerous or difficult for crews to access from the ground.

PLANNED ACTION

Crews are expected to need three more days to complete the handline from the south flank of the fire to Sunset Ridge. This will connect their handline with the existing line constructed by heavy equipment along the ridgeline. Crews on the southwest end of the fire continue to construct handline along the fire's edge, however, progress is slowed by steep terrain and hazardous trees. Heavy equipment is assisting crews by improving existing roads in the fire area.

The UAS will be mapping out the southern edge of the fire today, as conditions permit. As a reminder, the UAS aircraft is best able to pick up areas of heat within the fire late at night and early in the morning due to lower air temperatures at these times. For this reason, **the temporary flight restriction (TFR) for the fire area (FDC 3/7867) has been extended** to a full 24-hour restriction. This restriction is necessary to provide a safe environment for firefighting aircraft operating in the area. *If you fly, we can't!*

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

The fire area received about 7/100 of an inch of rain yesterday evening with winds gusting up to 30 mph. While more rain is not expected in the coming days, gusty winds are expected to remain prevalent in the fire area. These gusts could reach up to 30 mph in the ridgetops and up to 20 mph in the valleys. Additionally, relative humidities are expected to drop as low as 20 percent with temperatures in the mid-80s. These conditions will likely result in an uptick in fire behavior.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

Specific closure information can be found at <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtmts-colt-fire>.