



NORTHERN ROCKIES TEAM 5

INCIDENT COMMANDER: JOE SAMPSON

COLT FIRE

AUGUST 16, 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: 532 **Engines:** 12 **Helicopters:** 5 **Hand Crews:** 11

CURRENT STATUS

The crews continued wood chipping along the eastern and southern sides of the fire. Crews removed hose lays and pumps around Beaver Lake and readied them for backhaul. Mop-up continued throughout the fire area with emphasis on cooling the remaining heat in heavy and dead fuels along the fire's perimeter. A helicopter assisted ground crews by providing water bucket drops along the southern edge of the fire.

Air operations updated the temporary flight restriction (TFR) over the fire area last night. The new TFR is smaller in size. The east boundary will now run roughly parallel to Highway 83, providing a corridor between the Swan Mountains and the fire area. The southern line will also move north near Marshall Creek and Lake Inez. The updated TFR also lowered the TFR ceiling from 11,500 to 9,500 feet. **The updated TFR will still be in effect 24 hours a day** due to continued night operations with the unmanned aerial system (UAS, i.e., "drone") conducting infrared flights looking for "hot spots" along the lines.

PLANNED ACTION

Crews will continue to remove hose lays and pumps from the Beaver Lake area, where they are no longer needed. UAS operations will continue their detection of hot spots inside and outside the fire perimeter. Crews will mop-up residual heat along the fire's perimeter through the fire area. Along the fire's eastern and southern edge, chipping operations will continue.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Hot temperatures with very low relative humidity will continue during the burning period. Windspeeds will not be as gusty as predicted so the Fire Weather Watch is cancelled for today but is still in effect for tomorrow. Expect single tree and/or group torching to occur throughout the fire area. The fire incident's meteorologist released another weather balloon yesterday. Data from the balloon showed winds from the east which led to the increase of smoke seen from the Big Knife Fire in Arlee over the Colt Lake Fire area.

CLOSURES AND EVACUATIONS

The Missoula County Sheriff's Office has no evacuation orders or warnings in effect due to the Colt Fire as of 8/14/2023. For evolving Evacuations and Warnings please visit the Missoula County Sheriff's Office Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MissoulaCountySheriffsOffice>.

Lake Alva Campground, Lake Inez Campground, and Rainy Lake Campground remain closed at this time due to firefighter activity in the area. Specific closure information can be found at <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtmts-colt-fire>.