



NORTHERN ROCKIES TEAM 9 INCIDENT COMMANDER: SHANE MARTIN

Ridge Fire

Flathead National Forest, Hungry Horse Ranger District

Fire Information 406-998-6074 2023.ridge@firenet.gov
<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/mtfnf-ridge-fire>
August 5, 2023

Location: 6 miles southeast of Hungry Horse, MT
Start Date: 7/30/23 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 2,234 acres **Containment:** 0%.
Total Personnel: 102 **Dozers:** 2 **Hand Crews:** 4 **Water Tenders:** 2

KEY MESSAGE

To provide for public and firefighter safety, FS Road 38 (East Side Road) is closed to all public traffic east of the junction of FS Road 497 (Desert Mountain Road) and FS Road 38. West Side South Fork Road #895 is closed to all public traffic at mile marker 42. Currently, there are no evacuations for any residential structure due to the Ridge Fire.

CURRENT SITUATION

An evacuation notice was put into effect yesterday for all Forest Service campgrounds and dispersed sites along the East Side Reservoir (FS Road 38). Current acreage is at 2,234 acres, an increase of 658 acres, most of that acreage was near Emery Creek. Indirect (away from the fire) suppression efforts are prioritized on the west sides of the fire to protect critical infrastructure and private property. This is a full suppression fire and firefighter and public safety is the top priority.

Yesterday, east of Emery Bay Campground, hand crews continued work on a fuel break by removing brush and timber to decrease potential fire intensity. Firefighters put out spot fires on the southeast side of the fire to prevent impacts to FS Road 38 near Emery Creek. On the west side, heavy equipment continued to create a fuel break between Forest Service land and private property. Electrical boxes were wrapped to protect communication infrastructure along FS Road 497 (Desert Mtn Rd). Helicopters were able to provide water bucket drops when needed to aid in suppression efforts.

Today, hand crews continue implementing a fuel break along FS Road 38 near Emery Bay Campground to decrease potential fire intensity. Heavy equipment crews will scout and implement a fuel break on the west side of the fire to protect private property and the communities of Coram and Martin City should the fire push west.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Cooler, wetter weather pattern is forecasted for today. Fire behavior is most active on the southeast side (away from private property) as it spreads north towards Hungry Horse Mountain and impacts FS Road 38 near the Emery Creek drainage. On the west side of the fire, fire behavior has been moderate with slow rates of spread.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

An area closure is in effect due to the Ridge Fire. A temporary flight restriction and air quality alert is in effect. The Flathead National Forest has moved to Stage 2 Fire Restrictions. Please visit Inciweb for more information on the Ridge Fire. **There is a public meeting today at 2 PM at the Hungry Horse Fire Department.**