



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
inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/mtfnf-ridge-fire
August 6, 2023

Location: 6 miles southeast of Hungry Horse, MT
Start Date: 7/30/23 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 2,584 acres **Containment:** 0%.
Total Personnel: 115 **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. FS Road #895 (West Side South Fork Road) is closed to all public traffic starting at mile 15, near the Lid Creek Campground. Pre-evacuation notice in effect for private property along SF Abbot Creek on the west side of the fire.

CURRENT SITUATION

Fire behavior was low to moderate yesterday. Current acreage is at 2,584 acres, an increase of 350 acres. 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, helicopters provided water bucket drops on the west side of the fire. Hand crews continued work on a fuel break by removing brush and timber to decrease potential fire intensity. Heavy equipment continued work on a fuel break north of the junction of Desert Mountain Road and the East Side Road. Structure protection assessments were being conducted for private property.

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. Crews will also implement structure protection measures on Desert Mountain communication sites by wrapping combustible materials. Structure protection assessments will continue for private property in Martin City.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Potential for easterly winds and chances of precipitation over the fire area have decreased through the weekend and into next week. 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 is in effect over the fire area. The Flathead National Forest has moved to Stage 2 Fire Restrictions and is in Extreme Fire Danger. Residents should stay alert for changing conditions and **visit [ready.gov/wildfires](https://www.ready.gov/wildfires)** for preparing for wildfires. For up-to-date information on the Ridge Fire, please visit Inciweb and follow the Flathead National Forest Facebook page.