



# Ridge Fire Incident Update

Date: 08/14/23



<https://www.facebook.com/ridge.fire.information>



<https://www.youtube.com/@2023ridgefire>

**Location:** 6 miles southeast of Hungry Horse

**Size:** 3132 acres

**Percent Contained:** 10 %

**Cause:** Lightning

**Start Date:** July 30, 2023, 3:45 PM

**Fire Information:** 406-998-6074

**Hours:** 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM

**Email:** 2023.ridge@firenet.gov

**Incident Website:** <http://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtfnf-ridge-fire>

**Vegetation:** Timber (Litter and Understory), Tall Grass, and Brush

**Number of Personnel Assigned:** 481

## CURRENT SITUATION:

Yesterday at the southern edge of the fire, the handline with containment closest to Emery Bay Campground and Boat Launch continued to hold and contribute to the increase in containment. Crews continued to construct direct handline along the western edge. They progressed further into a designated area called Research Natural Area (RNA) which is a scientific experiment and considered a control area. All management actions are limited to the point that fire, in the past, has been excluded from impacting the ecosystem allowing for natural successional processes to occur. The dense buildup of fuels is difficult for line construction but hand crews press on through the forest to achieve the full suppression objective on this fire. On the northern edge of the fire, crews are progressing to the east with great success. The increased smoke and fire behavior was generated from the eastern side of the fire. Aerial resources dropped water on the edge to slow the progress and minimize impact to the forest. A recently constructed heli-spot near Hungry Horse Mountain provided access for fire crews to the less accessible fire area where they constructed direct fire line near the fires edge.

Today, crews will continue direct line on the southern edge of the fire from the area shown on the map with 10% containment. They will progress west and north extending further into the RNA in their progress to connect with the dozer lines on the northern edge. The bulldozers on the northern edge of the fire will continue both direct and indirect line construction along the fires edge. Air resources will continue to drop water on the eastern edge of the fire to slow its progression and assist ground crews across the entire fire area. Structure protection assessments continue. They are gathering information about the community for current and future use by identify items like fire hydrants, accessibility, and escape routes.

## WEATHER:

Today's weather is forecast to be mostly sunny with a maximum temperature of 90 degrees, minimum relative humidity of 22% at lower elevations, with winds being light and terrain driven.

## CLOSURES:

The Hungry Horse Reservoir is closed to all public access, including both the east and west side roads. As firefighting efforts continue on the Ridge Fire, the Tin Soldier Complex, and other fires in the area, the closure is in place to provide for public and firefighter safety. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/flathead/alerts-notice/?aid=82283>

## PRE-EVACUATION NOTICE:

The Flathead County Sheriff's Office has issued a pre-evacuation notice from the east side of Spotted Bear Road to West Glacier. <https://www.facebook.com/flatheadsheriff>

## EMERGENCY SHELTER:

The American Red Cross has identified the following location as an emergency shelter for residents affected by the Ridge Fire. Those who plan to use the emergency shelter are asked to call 1-800-733-2767 prior to your arrival.

Columbia Falls Junior High School 1805

Talbot Road Columbia Falls, MT

<https://www.facebook.com/FlatheadOES>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Residents should stay alert for changing conditions and visit [ready.gov/wildfires](https://ready.gov/wildfires) for preparing for wildfires. Please refer to <http://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtfnf-tin-soldier-complex> for the Tin Soldier Complex Incident information.