



Ridge Fire Incident Update

Date: 08/16/23



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



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

Location: 6 miles southeast of Hungry Horse

Size: 3249 acres

Percent Contained: 14 %

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: 485

CURRENT SITUATION:

Yesterday, increased fire behavior on the Ridge fire and Doris Point fire was noticeably visible, producing a large smoke plume. Expect potentially similar conditions to continue with the hot and dry weather continuing into the weekend. The Ridge fire did not have significant fire growth and the containment lines held strong. Crews continued to make good progress on the direct handline and mop up on the south, west and north high priority areas of the fire. Aircraft is continuing to work on the eastern edge utilizing precision water drops to slow the fire progress to the east.

Today Crews will continue to secure the direct handline on the entire western half of the fire. Resources will start being shifted and redeployed to the eastern portion of the fire as the western portions are completed. Aircraft will work in conjunction with crews to attack the fire on the east side. California Incident Management Team 4 will take command of the Doris Point fire starting at 6:00 AM today, 8/16.

The Doris Point Fire, which started on July 30 by lightning is located on the west side of Hungry Horse Reservoir, is estimated at 763 acres, and burning within the current area closure. Due to the very hot and dry weather, fire behavior is increasing, and smoke columns are visible from Colombia Falls to West Glacier. The Doris point fire is a confine and contain strategy to support the Flathead National Forest resource management objectives and to provide point protection for campground infrastructure. There are no values at risk or threatened infrastructure at this time.

WEATHER:

Today's weather is forecast to be mostly sunny with a maximum temperature of 92 degrees, minimum relative humidity of 20% at lower elevations, with winds being light and terrain driven. The hot and dry trend will stay until the end of this week.

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 for preparing for wildfires. Please refer to <http://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtfnf-tin-soldier-complex> for the Tin Soldier Complex Incident information.