



# Ridge Fire Incident Update

Date: 08/17/23



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



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

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

**Size:** 3348 acres

**Percent Contained:** 15 %

**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:** 622

## CURRENT SITUATION:

Hot dry weather continued yesterday with little significant fire growth on the Ridge Fire. Expect similar conditions to continue with the hot and dry weather today and tomorrow. Crews continue to strengthen lines, install hose lays, and mop up on the south, west, and north. Despite smokey conditions, aircraft were able to support crews on the ground to hold the fire in the current footprint on the east side. As lines on the west side are secured, crews are transitioning to the east side, where fire activity increased yesterday in the area of Hungry Horse Mountain. New lines are being constructed on the west by hand crews and dozers. Aircraft will continue to be used today to hold the fire in its current footprint. Through the assistance of a tactical firing operation that burned 8 acres, firefighters were able to create an anchor point. This allowed them to start building a control line on the southeast side of the fire.

The Doris Point fire is 763 acres, within the closure. Fire personnel and Flathead National Forest are clearing fuels and using structure wrap and sprinklers to protect campgrounds and boat docks. In addition, fire personnel scouted for confinement and containment opportunities. Water-dropping helicopters were also used yesterday to keep the fire in its current footprint.

## WEATHER:

Record heat and very low relative humidity are forecast through Friday. The Fire Weather Watch for today was cancelled and a Fire Weather Watch is in effect for tomorrow, Friday August 18, from noon to 9 p.m. Temperatures are forecast to cool this weekend with a 30-40 percent change of wetting rain next Monday and Tuesday.

## 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://www.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.