



Black Canyon Fire

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Fire Information: (406) 403-7965

2024.blackcanyon.mt@firenet.gov

<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtmts-black-canyon-fire>

August 16, 2024



DNRC County Assist Team, Incident Commander David Hamilton

Location: 30 miles northwest of White Sulphur Springs, MT

Start Date: 8/10/2024

Cause: Lightning/Natural; **Size:** 233 acres

Containment: 40%

287 Total Personnel; 9 Engines; 3 Helicopters; 10 Crews; 6 Heavy Equipment

KEY MESSAGE

Fireline has been successfully established around the northern, middle, and southern fires, with no further fire growth observed. The current objectives are focused on holding, improving, and securing existing fire line, while maximizing firefighter and public safety. Yesterday, air operations delivered 16,000 pounds of essential equipment, including pumps, bladder bags, and water blivets containing 1,500 gallons of water, to the fire line. This equipment will support mop-up operations by providing accessible water sources for firefighting crews and engines.

CURRENT STATUS

Yesterday, two DNRC Type 2 helicopters (UH-1H) delivered water blivets and hose to strategic locations on the northeastern fire line to aid in mop-up operations. Two large portable water tanks (6000 and 3000 gallons) were positioned at the base of Switchback Road for easy access and refilling by engines. A Type 1 Helicopter (Chinook) dropped water on hot spots and torching trees throughout the day to keep the fire within its perimeter. Crews started mop-up activities by plumbing much of the fire line with hoses and will continue these efforts today.

Today, crews are focused on securing the fire perimeter through continued mop-up activities. The Type 1 helicopter will be dropping water on hot spots, while crews will be working on holding and improving fire line by utilizing existing hose lays. Two skidgines will be shuttling water to refill the portable water tanks throughout the day. Heavy equipment will be used to rehabilitate previously constructed contingency lines.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Direct sunlight on the northeastern side of the fire in the morning has been preheating fuels, causing tree torching. Weather today will be partly sunny with temperatures ranging from 71-76 degrees with variable southwest winds up to 10 mph. Expect another round of showers and thunderstorms this afternoon with a better chance of wetting rain this evening.

