



Hilger Valley Fire

Fire Information: 406-499-3616 | 2025.hilgervalley@firenet.gov
inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtmts-hilger-valley-fire

June 12, 2025

DNRC County Assist Team, Incident Commander Dave Hamilton

Location: 20 miles north of Helena, MT

Start Date: June 9, 2025

Cause: Human caused

Size: 295 acres

Containment: 40%

187 Total Personnel; 11 Engines; 2 Helicopters; 4 Hand Crews; 2 Dozers; 3 Tenders; 1 Skidgen

CURRENT STATUS

Containment line is now fully established around the entire perimeter of the fire, constructed using a combination of handline and dozer line. These lines held through last night's wind events, and an overnight infrared (IR) flight confirmed that any remaining heat is located within the control lines.

Two helicopters cooled hot spots with bucket drops and will continue aerial support today.

Firefighters will continue mop-up operations, working up to two chains, or 132 feet, into the fire perimeter to locate and extinguish remaining heat. Using a gridding and cold-trailing technique, firefighters carefully scan the ground for burned areas and feel for any lingering heat by hand. Where heat is detected, firefighters dig to bare soil with hand tools and mix with water until cold to the touch. Fire resources supply water to ground crews, utilizing hoses lay, a skidgen, and helicopters to support mop-up efforts. Steep terrain and hazardous trees present ongoing challenges.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

High humidity and intermittent moisture have helped moderate fire behavior. Fire activity is moderate with creeping and smoldering in heavy fuels (such as tree trunks and stumps) within the fire interior.

Today's weather will be partly sunny with a high of 75 degrees. There's a chance of showers and thunderstorms, with winds up to 10 mph, which may influence fire activity. Smoke will be visible for the coming weeks, as isolated pockets of unconsumed fuel continue to smolder.

EVACUATIONS AND CLOSURES

There are no evacuations or closures in effect. The public is asked to avoid the area and steer clear of helicopters scooping water from Upper Holter Lake, for their safety and the safety of fire personnel.

