

Corral Creek Fire



Start: 08/20/2025

Cause: Lightning

Size: 221 acres

Containment: 0%

Location: 6 miles southwest of Frenchtown, MT

Incident Commanders: John "Teo" DiGiando, ICT3 and Greg Anderson, ICT3(t)

Current Activity:

Significant progress was made yesterday in controlling the fire's spread. A high-priority direct line was established on the eastern flank, and primary hand lines were successfully held, with growth limited to a minimum. Ground crew efforts were supported by water drops. Multiple loads of retardant were dropped to limit fire spread and allow time for crews and equipment to continue with line production.

Burn operations on the southeastern edge of the fire were aided by light winds, and the perimeter was secured from Albert Creek Road up to the ridgeline by the crews. A dozer line was also constructed on the northern end of the fire to limit spread toward the BPA Powerlines and private property. The fire is currently being held at Albert Creek Road, and the west and south sections are being held within the previously placed retardant lines.

Today, operations will be made more challenging by higher winds and gusts that will test the established fire lines. The primary objective is for the top of the west flank to be closed off using a dozer line and hand crews. Additionally, the southern and western flanks will be worked directly by hand crews to further control the fire. The focus is on the fireline being connected by working west and below the existing handlines.

Weather: Hot and dry weather pattern that will extend into the weekend. Today, Friday, temperatures will reach a high of 84°F with winds increasing out of the east and northeast with a cold front approaching. The temperature will increase on Saturday, which is predicted to be the hottest and driest day, with a high of 89°F and partly cloudy skies. The hot temperatures will continue into Sunday, reaching a high of 90°F. Winds are expected to be light from the east and northeast throughout the weekend.

Smoke: Smoke impacts are mostly from wildfires burning in Idaho, carried by prevailing westerly winds. The smoke can be patchy, leading to fluctuations in air quality that can be dense at times. Residents should be aware that air quality can deteriorate quickly, potentially reaching levels that are unhealthy for sensitive groups, including those with respiratory issues, the elderly, and children. To stay informed, it's recommended to check real-time air quality data from sources like fire.airnow.gov and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

Closures:

Forest Area closure is being created.

Public Advisory:

There is a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) in place over the fire area. The TFR is in place to provide a safe environment for firefighting aircraft operations. Using drones and flying private aircraft in the fire area can halt air operations and suppression efforts, jeopardizing the safety of all firefighting resources. Find the NOTAMS at www.tfr.faa.gov

Evacuations: No evacuations have been ordered at this time.

Residents are encouraged to sign up for the Missoula County Emergency Management's Community Notification System for timely updates: www.missoulacounty.us/departments/office-of-emergency-management/

Follow the incident on Inciweb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/mtlnf-corral-creek-fire>

Fire Information Line: (406)708-8530

Email: 2025.corralcreek@firenet.gov