



# Copper King Fire Update

Wednesday, August 31, 2016, 8:00 a.m.

Fire Information: (406) 203-8203 - Phone hours: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Email: [copperkingpio@gmail.com](mailto:copperkingpio@gmail.com)

***NOTICE: Log hauling is being permitted through the Area Closure from midnight to 6:00 AM daily.***

**Location:** Lolo National Forest, eight miles east of Thompson Falls; one mile north of Highway 200.

**Incident Command:** The Copper King Fire is being managed by Greg Poncin's Type I Northern Rockies Incident Management Team.

**Air Quality Alert:** Check the Montana Department of Environmental Quality website at [deq.mt.gov/Air](http://deq.mt.gov/Air) or [inciweb.nwcg.gov](http://inciweb.nwcg.gov) for the current update on Air Quality impacts.

**Fire Closure:** An area closure is in effect for lands, trails and roads administered by the USDA Forest Service, Montana DNRC, Sanders County and Weyerhaeuser. An area closure map is posted at [tinyurl.com/hftr4on](http://tinyurl.com/hftr4on).

**Evacuations:** *Evacuation notices remain in effect.* For more information on evacuation status, call (406) 827-3584, extension 3 or visit the Sanders County Sheriff's Facebook page at [tinyurl.com/ja3nn8l](http://tinyurl.com/ja3nn8l).

**Yesterday:** Smoke and cloud cover lessened fire activity. On the western flank, firefighters patrolled along the ACM road. Firefighters continued the firing operation on the north end of the fire to mitigate the fire escaping its perimeter. Patrol and mop up continued on the east end of the fire. Dozers and hand crews worked to contain spot fires near the Big Hole Lookout. Firefighters conducted firing operations late last night. Retardant and water was dropped on the southeast end of the fire to minimize farther encroachment into Munson Creek. The night shift continued working through the night around the fire perimeter.

**Today's Weather and Fire Behavior:** Cloud cover this morning could help firefighting objectives. Highs are expected to be in the mid-80s with relative humidity ranging from the mid 20 to 30 percent. Winds will be light and may develop into gusts as thunderstorms move into the area. Travelers on the Highway 200 may still see smoke from burning timber in the steep, rocky slopes above.

**Today's Planned Actions:** Hand crews and machinery will continue to build direct and indirect fire line on the northeast end of the fire, from the Little Thompson River Road southwest to the Big Hole Lookout. Smoke may be seen in the surrounding area from aerial and hand firing on the southeastern edge and upper Munson Creek. Firefighters will continue to patrol along the ACM road and provide structure protection for homes along the Highway 200, Little Thompson, and Thompson River corridors. As weather and visibility allow, helicopter and air tankers will continue to drop water and fire retardant into the Munson Creek drainage to keep the fire from dropping into the lower end of the creek.

**Air Operations:** A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) remains in effect over this fire. Please check with the FAA or your local flight service station prior to flying in the area of the fire. The aerial resources assigned to the Copper King Fire are available for use both on this incident and for initial attack. ***Although drones are fun to fly, they can be deadly if flown near wildfires. Know before you fly.***

**Cooperating Agencies:** Lolo National Forest, Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC), Sanders County, Sanders County Sheriff, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

**For Copper King Fire information:** [inciweb.nwcg.gov](http://inciweb.nwcg.gov)  
An interactive map of the fire perimeter is at: [goo.gl/xMXLYs](http://goo.gl/xMXLYs)

STATISTICS	
<b>Detected:</b>	July 31, 2016
<b>Cause:</b>	Under Investigation
<b>Current Size:</b>	27,088 acres (As of 8:59 PM August 30, 2016)
<b>Containment:</b>	20%
<b>Structures Lost:</b>	None
<b>Estimated Costs:</b>	\$17.9 Million
Resources Assigned:	
Type 1 Crews:	5
Type 2 Crews:	13
Camp Crews:	4
Dozers:	11
Engines:	58
Water Tenders:	26
Helicopters:	8
Total Personnel:	878