



# Copper King Fire Update

Monday, September 12, 2016, 8:00 a.m.

Fire Information: 406-826-9048 (through 9/12); 406-826-4345 (after 9/12)

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

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

**Incident Command:** The Copper King Fire is currently being managed by Roger Staats' Northern Rockies Type 2 Incident Management Team. Scott Schrenk's Type 3 Incident Management Team will begin managing the Copper King Fire, effective 7:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 13, out of the local district office.

**Fire Status:** Much of the fire's perimeter is considered secure containment line now. Where containment lines are no longer necessary (around much of the southern, western, and northern portions of the fire area) significant suppression repair has been completed. Erosion control on fire lines no longer necessary for control, slash and debris removal along the ACM road, and road grading are nearly complete. As a result, many personnel are being demobilized, and the Incident Command Post on Helterline Road will be dismantled September 13.

STATISTICS	
<b>Detected:</b>	July 31, 2016
<b>Cause:</b>	Under Investigation
<b>Current Size:</b> (Unchanged since September 3, 2016)	28,553 acres
<b>Containment:</b>	80%
<b>Structures Lost:</b>	None
<b>Estimated Costs:</b> (as of September 12, 2016)	\$26.268 Million

Although some precipitation has occurred over the fire area, conditions are not considered "season-ending" and a very slight potential still exists for fire spread if conditions dry out. Along the southeastern fire edge, in the west side of the Munson Creek drainage, fire lines and contingency lines will remain in place until fire control is assured.

Effective 7:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 13, the Little Thompson River Road (which has been closed from mile marker 3 to mile marker 17) will be re-opened. However, all other road closures in the fire area will remain in effect (including the ACM Road, Calico Creek Road- FSR875, and the Todd Creek Road- FSR887, from the junction of Highway 200 north to its junction with the Little Thompson River Road.) Condition assessments will be on-going to determine fire spread potential, the need for road and area closures, as well as the need for fire lines in the Munson Creek area. A Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team will also be arriving on September 13 to begin assessing the potential fire effects on hydrology, soils, and vegetation and whether measures are warranted to protect life and property.

This will be the last fire update unless significant fire activity occurs or closure orders are modified.

**Air Operations:** A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) has been lifted for the fire area effective September 12, although occasional helicopter work may still be conducted in the area. Please check with the FAA or your local flight service station before flying near the fire.

**Area and Road Closures:** A closure surrounding the fire area is still in effect for lands, trails and roads administered by the USDA Forest Service, Montana DNRC, Sanders County and Weyerhaeuser (except for the Little Thompson River Road which will re-open September 13). Please see Inciweb for more details and maps pertaining to the closure. The implemented closure is temporary and will be assessed regularly among the jurisdictions involved. The order will be modified or rescinded when conditions allow.

For questions specific to evacuation levels or permitted access within closure areas, please call the Sanders County Sheriff's office at [\(406\) 827-3584](tel:4068273584), extension 3. For inquiries specific to the other agencies involved, contact the Plains Unit of the DNRC at (406) 826-4724, Weyerhaeuser at [\(406\) 892-6238](tel:4068926238), or the Montana FWP Kalispell office at [\(406\) 752-5501](tel:4067525501). Beginning September 13, for any other inquiries about the Copper King Fire, call [\(406\) 826-4345](tel:4068264345).

**Evacuations:** As per Sanders County Sheriff's Office, effective 7:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 13, no further evacuations or pre-evacuation alerts are in place for the Copper King Fire.

**For Copper King Fire information:** [inciweb.nwcg.gov](http://inciweb.nwcg.gov)

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

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