



# Copper King Fire Update

Wednesday, September 7, 2016, 8:00 a.m.

Fire Information: (406) 826-9048 - Phone hours: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

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 being managed by Roger Staats' Northern Rockies Type 2 Incident Management Team.

**Yesterday:** Firefighters continued to patrol and mop up near the fire line on the west and north end of the fire's perimeter. Firefighters are improving control lines in the event that conditions for a possible burn out along the portion of the fire near Highway 200 and in Munson Creek develop. A tenth of an inch of rain has been recorded on the fire in the last 24 hours.

A red retardant line is currently visible from Highway 200 on the cliff side up from Munson Creek. The retardant will fade/wash away within a couple of weeks. This retardant was used to tie the fire off on the rock cliff and talus slope along Bad Rock Lane near the west side of Munson Creek.

**Today's Weather and Fire Behavior:** Cloudy weather will bring a 40 percent chance of showers. The amount of rain is expected to be a trace to 0.01 inches. Winds should remain light throughout the day. Mid-slope temperatures within the fire perimeter is predicted to be 52-58 degrees and relative humidity will remain high. Because of the higher humidity and lower temperatures, fire activity is expected to remain low.

**Today's Planned Actions:** Crews will continue to patrol and mop up control lines throughout the fire. Crews will remove slash and clear debris along the ACM road, and clear rolling debris from the other roads as necessary. Along the northeast end of the fire, crews will fall hazard trees in an effort to prevent or minimize accidents. Firefighters working along the southern and southwest flank of the fire will continue to strengthen and improve control lines in preparation for potential firing operations. In addition, crews will continue to conduct fire suppression repair on all control lines that are no longer needed for perimeter control.

**Air Operations:** A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) remains in effect over this fire. Please check with the FAA or your local flight service station before flying near the fire. Remember, if you fly a drone around the fire, we cannot fly.

**Fire Closure:** A closure surrounding the fire area is in effect for lands, trails and roads administered by the USDA Forest Service, Montana DNRC, Sanders County and Weyerhaeuser.

For questions specific to the area closure or evacuations, 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). For all other inquiries about the fire, contact Copper King Fire information at [\(406\) 203-8203](tel:4062038203). The implemented closure is temporary and will be assessed daily among the jurisdictions involved. The order will be rescinded when conditions allow. The closure is being put in place as a safety measure to protect firefighters and the public. Specific threats to the public and firefighters include, but are not limited to rocks falling onto the road way, shallow rooted trees falling expectantly and fire traffic including heavy equipment moving along the roads. Property owners, permittees, homeowners and contractors should contact agencies implementing the closure for more information.

An area closure map is posted at [tinyurl.com/hftr4on](http://tinyurl.com/hftr4on). An interactive map of the fire perimeter and area closure is at: [goo.gl/xMXLYs](http://goo.gl/xMXLYs)

**Evacuations:** The Sanders County Sheriff's Office issued the following evacuation status updates related to the Copper King Fire - *Level III*: A mandatory evacuation order for residents in the Mudd Creek area, along the Little Thompson River Road has been reduced to a Level I alert. Residents will be allowed to return to their homes in this area (by permit only issued by the Sheriff or Undersheriff). The Little Thompson River Road will remain closed to the general public, from mile

STATISTICS	
<b>Detected:</b>	July 31, 2016
<b>Cause:</b>	Under Investigation
<b>Current Size:</b> (As of 10:27 PM September 3, 2016)	28,534 acres
<b>Containment:</b>	70%
<b>Structures Lost:</b>	None
<b>Estimated Costs:</b>	\$24.49 Million
Resources Assigned:	
Type 1 Crews:	1
Type 2 Crews:	8
Camp Crews:	3
Dozers:	0
Engines:	12
Water Tenders:	11
Helicopters:	5
Air Attack	1
<b>Total Personnel:</b>	460

3 to its intersection with the Thompson River Road at mile marker 17. The ACM Road will also remain closed, from the mouth of Thompson River to mile marker 17.

*Level I:* The existing Level I evacuation alert remains in effect for the homes along Highway 200, from the mouth of Thompson River up to and including Buffalo Bill Creek, as well as for the homes between mile markers 3 and 4 on the Little Thompson River Road.

**Air Quality Alert:** Check the Montana Department of Environmental Quality website at [deq.mt.gov/Air](http://deq.mt.gov/Air).

**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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