

# Copper King Fire Update

## Friday, September 16, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Fire Information: 406-826-4345

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

**Location:** Eight miles east of Thompson Falls, north of Highway 200.

**Incident Command:** The Copper King Fire is currently being managed by Scott Schrenk's Type 3 Incident Management Team out of the local district office in Plains.

**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 have nearly been completed. As a result, many personnel are being demobilized.

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. Moisture is expected to return Saturday night which, if significant, may allow fire management to rescind closures that have been in place for some time.

Road closures in the fire area will remain in effect:

- ACM Road from Highway 200 to the 17-mile bridge
- Calico Creek Road- FSR875
- Weeksville/Todd Creek Road- FSR887, from the junction of Highway 200 north to its junction with the Little Thompson River Road

Condition assessments will be ongoing to determine fire spread potential, the need for road and area closures, as well as the need for fire lines and continued closures in Munson Creek. A Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team has been 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, although occasional helicopter work may still be conducted. Pilots should 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. The area is described as:

- East of ACM Road from its junction with County Road 56 (Thompson River Rd) near Hwy 200 to 17-Mile bridge
- North of private property boundaries on Hwy 200 from FSR887 to County Road 56
- West of Weeksville/Todd Creek Road- FSR887 from Hwy 200 north to its junction with the Little Thompson River Road, FSR7575
- West of FSR7575 north of its junction with FSR887 to the 17-mile bridge

Please see Inciweb for 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.

**Access Information:** Depending upon the land ownership in question, contact the Lolo National Forest Plains Ranger District at (406) 826-4345, the Plains Unit of the DNRC at (406) 826-4724, Weyerhaeuser at (406) 892-6238, or the Montana FWP Kalispell office at (406) 752-5501.

**Online Copper King Fire information:** [inciweb.nwccg.gov](http://inciweb.nwccg.gov)

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 15, 2016)	\$27.026 Million

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