



STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
MONTANA DIVISION OF FORESTRY
2705 Spurgin Road
Missoula, Montana 59804

Montana Wildfire Situation Report Monday, August 26, 2024		
Preparedness Level	Northern Rockies: 3	National: 4
<p>There is a chance for thunderstorms across much of southern Montana today, with southeast Montana predicted to receive rainfall. The cold front early this week will bring a chance of severe thunderstorms. Beginning mid-week, a stronger cold front will bring windier conditions that could increase fire activity in front of a drier weather pattern this weekend. Overall, the next week is predicted to be hotter and drier than average, which could continue to keep operational tempos high.</p>		
<p>The Northern Rockies Geographic Area received 177 fires last week (Sunday 8/18– Saturday 8/24) for 17,280 acres burned. During the same period, Montana received 146 fires for 17,173 acres. To date, there have been 1,735 fires in the state for a total of 130,670 acres burned.</p>		
DNRC Fire Situation		
<p>Eastern Land Office: The land office reported 27 fires last week, including the Barber Draw (6,739 acres) and Chalky Point (1,400 acres) Fires. The Land office also assisted with response to the Remington Fire, which started in Wyoming and pushed into Montana. The total acreage for that fire currently sits at ~197,000 acres, ~180,000 of which are within Montana.</p>		
<p>Southern Land Office: SLO reported 26 local government fires and over a dozen federal fires last week.</p>		
<p>Northeastern Land Office: There were 26 new starts across the land office last week. The largest was the Wolf Paw Fire, which burned 406 acres in Sheridan County. The River Bottom Fire outside of Plentywood burned 240 acres.</p>		
<p>Central Land Office: The area had 12 fires last week, the largest of which was Big Hollow Fire at 3,450 acres. The land office also assisted with response to the 300-acre Bear Fire in Meagher County.</p>		
<p>Northwestern Land Office: The area received 10 lightning-caused fires last week. Tony Peak and Fritz Fire should be in patrol status by the end of the day, all other fires are in patrol status or are contained already.</p>		
<p>Southwestern Land Office: There were 10 new fires across the area last week. The largest under DNRC protection is the McElwain Fire, although the land office is also responding to the Hoodoo fire, which has burned 6 acres over rough and densely timbered terrain.</p>		

Other Large Fire Incidents in Montana

Sharrott Creek, Bitterroot NF, USFS. CIMT (NR Team 3). 1,048 acres, 0% contained. Burning four miles west of Stevensville, MT in timber. Active fire behavior with group torching, flanking and uphill runs. Numerous structures threatened. Evacuations, area, road, and trail closures in effect.

Barber Draw, Big Horn County. 6,739 acres, 75% contained. Started on private land 30 miles southwest of Lame Deer, MT. Burning in timber. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Residences and energy infrastructure threatened.

Ratio Mountain, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, USFS. 451 acres, 9% contained. Burning thirteen miles northeast of Whitehall, MT in timber. Moderate fire behavior with flanking, backing and single tree torching. Residences threatened. Area closure in effect. Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping.

Johnson, Bitterroot NF, USFS. 370 acres, 0% contained. Burning thirty-three miles southeast of Hamilton, MT in timber and light slash. Moderate fire behavior with flanking, isolated torching, and smoldering. Numerous structures threatened. Trail closures in effect.

McElwain, Southwestern Land Office, Montana DNR. 176 acres, 0% contained. Burning twenty-five miles southeast of Seeley Lake, MT in timber, brush and grass. Moderate fire behavior with isolated torching and group torching. Residences threatened.

Polecat, Charles M. Russell NWR, FWS. 188 acres, 15% contained. Burning sixty-four miles northeast of Lewistown, MT in timber and grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering.

Big Hollow, Central Land Office, Montana DNR. 3,450 acres, 0% contained. Burning twenty-eight miles southeast of Salmon, ID in grass, timber, and brush. No new information.

DNRC Fire Information

Forestry Division	Anna Lau	406-499-3616
Fire Protection Bureau	Julia Berkey	406-361-5947

Statewide Duty Officers

ELO	Randy Sanders	406-489-1418
SLO	Mike Boettcher/Stormey Tucker	406-210-8137/406-591-5489
NELO	Keith Woods	406-544-5649
CLO	John Huston	406-4431-2562
NWLO	Marcel Getz	406-897-0931
SWLO	Dan Miller	406-250-4762
FPB	Cory Calnan	406-788-7718
GIS	Liz Hertz	Contact FPB DO
Information	Julia Berkey	406-361-5947

Links to Other Information

Montana Fires on InciWeb	http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/state/30/
---------------------------------	---

Montana fires, restrictions, and preparedness	https://www.mtfireinfo.org/
Wildfire Smoke Update	https://gis.mtdeq.us/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=000f42b119c44c7f9c3b4336470c721e
Fire Weather Watches/Warnings	http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/predictive/weather/weather.htm
Current Fire Restrictions in Montana	https://www.mtfireinfo.org/pages/restrictions
Montana Weather	http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/predictive/weather/weather.htm
Northern Rockies 7 Day Fire Potential	https://fsapps.nwcg.gov/psp/npsg/forecast/#/outlooks?state=forecast&gacclid=5
National Fire News	http://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/nfn.htm
National Situation Report	http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf