

# InciWeb - Incident Information System

## Lolo Peak Fire News Release

---

### Lolo Peak Fire Update August 21

---

Incident: Lolo Peak Fire Wildfire  
Released: 25 min. ago

#### Lolo Peak Fire Update

Monday, August 21, 2017 8:30 AM

Northern Rockies Incident Management Team

Greg Poncin, Incident Commander

Related Information
Lolo Peak Fire Update August 21 (pdf 266 kb)

**Evacuations and Warnings:** Yesterday some evacuation orders were downgraded to warnings, allowing many residents back into their homes. Evacuations and warnings are still in effect, and can change at any time based on fire behavior. For current information visit the Missoula County and the Ravalli County Sheriffs' Facebook pages.

**Community Meetings:** A community meeting was held last night at the Baptist Church in Florence. Approximately 260 people attended and were briefed by fire managers on the status of the Lolo Peak Fire.

**highway 12 is open with a pilot car.**

**Old highway 93 is closed to all traffic, except emergency vehicles, from Tie Chute Lane north.** Resident passes are available for those people who live between the Old 93 and New 93 Highways. Contact the Missoula or Ravalli County Sheriffs' office for details.

**Fire Information Locations:** Staffed fire information is available at two locations: The Farmers State Bank parking lot at 5501 Old Highway 93 North in Florence; and the Firewise Trailer, located at the weigh station in Lolo at the corner of Highways 12 and 93.

**The Montana National Guard** is in place with 154 soldiers providing assistance to the Missoula and Ravalli County Sheriffs' offices in road closures and evacuation programs.

**Summary:** Weather conditions yesterday moderated significantly from the past several days. While this was generally beneficial for suppression efforts it did affect the ability to conduct burn out operations, especially south of Highway 12. However, fire has reached most of the control line above the Highway 12 corridor and mop up is in progress. Firefighters also continued mopping up and securing fire line in the Highway 93 corridor north of the County Line Road.

**Today:** Weather conditions today are expected to be similar to yesterday, which will allow firefighters to make more progress mopping up and securing fire lines. Burn out operations may be completed today on the Highway 12 corridor if conditions are favorable, but most of the work will be mopping up along the control line. The fire just west and south of County Line Road remains a concern to fire managers as the fire continues to move to the south. Crews there will work to improve and strengthen fire line to prevent the fire from compromising the control line. The eclipse today should not impact suppression efforts or influence fire behavior.

**Please do not stop along the highways to view fire activity or today's solar eclipse as it creates a significant traffic hazard.** In addition to traffic hazards, stopping along the highways impedes firefighter traffic, impacts the safety of firefighters and citizens, and increases the chances that the fire may escape control lines.

**Firewise:** For information on how to improve the chances of your homes and structures surviving a wildfire, visit the Firewise website at [www.Firewise.org](http://www.Firewise.org).

**Evacuation/Closure Information:** Evacuations and road closures are based upon the need to provide for safety of the public and firefighters, current fire behavior, forecasted weather, and planned suppression operation.

Fire officials, Missoula and Ravalli County Sheriff's Offices, and Montana Department of Transportation will evaluate the evacuation and road closures daily. The Incident Commander, Missoula County Rural Fire Chief, Ravalli County Fire Warden, the Missoula, and Ravalli County Sheriff's appreciate your patience and will work hard to get you back into your homes as soon as it is safe to do so.

The Red Cross has opened a shelter at the University Congregation Church located at 405 University Avenue in Missoula.

For animal sheltering call Animal Control at 541-7387 and leave a message.

**Drones and TFR:** The Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) for the Lolo Peak Fire remains in effect. This restriction includes "drones" or unmanned aerial vehicles. If drones are detected, air operations will stop. "If you fly, we can't!" If you see a drone in the fire area, including the evacuation areas, please report it immediately to 406-272-5433. Please provide your name, phone number, the location and time you observed the drone. Your cooperation is needed to insure the safety of our pilots.

**Stage II Fire Restrictions** are in effect for Missoula and Ravalli Counties and across the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests. Additional information can be found on Inciweb.

**Closures:** The Bitterroot National Forest issued an Amendment, on August 1, 2017 for the Lolo Peak Fire that now includes Bass Creek FR #1136, beginning at the junction of FR#1316 and the Charles Waters Campground and through section 32, T.10N, R20W.

The Area Closure was Amended, on July 27, 2017 for the Lolo Peak Fire and now includes the following roads and trails as well as those encompassed by the area closure intersecting with open roads and trails; Elk Meadow Road (NFSR #451) from Junction US Hwy 12 to the Clearwater National Forest Boundary, West Fork Butte Road (NFSR #37 ) from the West Fork Butte Lookout to the intersection with the Elk Meadow Road (NFSR #451), Mormon Peak Road (NFSR #612), South Fork Lolo Creek Road (FR #2160), Small Creek Road (FR #4292), West Fork Butte Trail (#320), Mill Creek Trail (#1310), Sweeney Trail (#393), and Bass Creek Trail (#4). For specific road, trail and area closure information please visit the Inciweb website.

The fire is under the jurisdiction of the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests and the Montana Department of Natural Resources (MTDNRC). It is being managed under unified command consisting of Incident Commanders Poncin, Missoula Rural Fire Department Chief Newman and Ravalli County Fire Warden Mohn.

Missoula County residents can receive emergency notifications of critical alerts via their choice of text, phone and/or email by signing up at [Smart911.com](http://Smart911.com). Residents in Ravalli County can download the **Ravalli County Sheriff's app** to their mobile devices to receive critical information notifications.

**Cooperators:** The city of Stevensville, Ravalli & Missoula County Government; Ravalli and Missoula County Sheriff's Offices; Lolo School District; Missoula Rural Fire; Florence VFD; MDOT; Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; Carlton and Bass Lake Irrigation; Florence – Carlton School District; Ravalli and Missoula County DES; Private Landowners



Content posted to this website is for information purposes only.