

Lolo Peak Fire News Release

# InciWeb - Incident Information System

## Lolo Peak Fire News Release

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### Lolo Peak Fire Update August 23

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Incident: Lolo Peak Fire Wildfire  
Released: 1:08 hrs. ago

#### Lolo Peak Fire Update

Wednesday, August 23, 2017 8:30 AM

Northern Rockies Incident Management Team

Greg Poncin, Incident Commander

**Fire origin:** July 15, 2017, ten miles southwest of Lolo, MT.

**Fire Information:** (406) 272-5433 Hours: 7am – 9pm

**Email:** LoloPeakFire@gmail.com

**Websites:** Inciweb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5375/>

Missoula County Sheriff: <https://tinyurl.com/ya93jpuf>

Ravalli County Sheriff: <http://ravalli.us/245/Sheriff>

**Facebook:** Bitterroot National Forest Facebook Page

Lolo National Forest Facebook Page

Related Information
Lolo Peak Fire Update August 23 (pdf 350 kb)

#### **RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT TODAY FROM 5 PM TO MIDNIGHT.**

**For Missoula County evacuees:** call 406 258-INFO (4636).

**For Ravalli County:** call 406-375-6650.

**Evacuations and Warnings:** Evacuations were downgraded Tuesday evening to warning status for Missoula County residents from the County Line Road north to the Carlton Creek Road. Evacuations and warnings are still in effect, and can change at any time based on fire behavior. For the most current information visit the Missoula County and the Ravalli County Sheriffs' Facebook pages.

**RETURNING HOME:** As residents return home, they may see changes that have occurred to their property as a result of firefighting operations. Once home, check your property for evidence of fire, your well/pump, and electric/gas meter and propane tank. Contact 911 if any danger is perceived.

**Highway 12 is open with a 45 mile per hour speed limit through the fire area.**

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

**Fire Information Locations:** Staffed fire information is available at: 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.

**Summary:** Firefighters yesterday fortified control lines and mopped up in preparation for potential critical fire weather moving into the area Wednesday evening. Mop up continued to secure the control line along the Highway 93 corridor from Lolo south to One Horse Creek and Highway 12 west to the Mill Creek area. Burn out operations continued near OZ Ranch, with more work needed to bring fire down to the control line along the Highway 12 corridor. The fire west of Florence remains a concern to fire managers as it continues to have the potential to move south. Additional control line south of Florence was improved with hose lays, pumps, and portable water tanks.

**Today:** A red flag warning will be in effect from 5 p.m. until midnight for dry thunderstorms that will move in from the southwest, potentially bringing strong, erratic winds between 35-40 mph with gusts up to 50. Firefighters will patrol along 93 and 12 highway corridors, control lines and in communities for structure protection. Due to the likelihood of new starts that may occur with the anticipated dry lightning, firefighters will be prepared for initial attack. Moderate weather conditions are expected throughout most of the day leading up to the forecasted thunderstorm activity, allowing firefighters to continue mopping up and, if conditions are favorable, begin firing operations to reinforce the control lines along the Highway 12 corridor and on the west side of the fire.

**Please do not stop along the highways to view fire activity. 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 could 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 operations.

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, and the Missoula and Ravalli County Sheriffs 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 Missoula County 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. **The restriction includes "drones" or unmanned aerial vehicles. If drones are detected, air operations stop. "If you fly, we can't!"** If you see a drone in the fire area, including the evacuation areas, report it immediately to 406-272-5433. Please provide your name, phone number, 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:** A August 1st Bitterroot National Forest Amendment for the Lolo Peak Fire included Bass Creek FR #1136, beginning at the junction of FR#1316, 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 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 Commander Poncin, Missoula Rural Fire Chief Newman and Ravalli County Fire Warden Mohn. **Montana National Guard** soldiers are providing assistance to the Missoula and Ravalli County Sheriffs' offices in road closures and evacuation programs.

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 Sheriffs' 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.



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