



Pattengail Creek fire

Southern Area Incident Command Team

Tuesday, August 27 2007 @ 1 pm

Information: (406) 832-3178 x211, www.inciweb.org, or www.fs.fed.us/r1/b-d/

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Rick Barton, Information Officer

Cause: Lightning

Fire Start: July 13, 2007

Location: 10 miles southwest of Wise River, Montana, in the west Pioneer Mountains

Cooperating Agencies: Beaverhead County, Anaconda-Deerlodge County, Butte-Silver Bow County, Bureau of Land Management, MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, MT

Department of Transportation, USDA Forest Service

Total Personnel on Fire: 14

Acres: 12,155

Another good day on the Pattengail Creek Fire: Firefighters report that even though there were minor crown fire runs and some spotting, there was little surface spread and the size remains basically unchanged at 12,155 acres.

Work on Contingency Line Postponed: Work on the contingency line running from Bryant Creek to Alder Creek has been suspended for now. This is the result of the Pattengail Creek fire no longer moving in that direction. If the fire becomes active and makes a sustained run towards homes in the Big Hole Valley, appropriate action will resume. Dennis Havig, acting District Ranger for the Wise River Ranger District, said "The contingency line is 80-85% completed. We have the line well marked and if something changes, we can resume construction immediately."

According to Ranger Havig, fire officials cannot justify using emergency fire funds to continue to build the line since the fire no longer threatens homes. However, they hope to obtain alternate, more appropriate funding in order to complete the line by next spring. The contingency line runs for seven miles, tying together existing roads.

Wise River Community Meetings: There will be another Community Meeting this Wednesday at the Wise River Community Center beginning at 7:30 pm. Members of the Incident Management Team will give a report of the fire's status as well as answer questions from the community.

Today's planned activities include removing trees and equipment from the line already cut as well as monitoring the fire activity.

Tomorrow's weather forecast: Light winds from the north/northwest, temperatures in the mid-seventies with the humidity ranging from 15-25%. The extended forecast calls for warm, drying temperatures tomorrow followed by a slight chance for thunderstorms going into the weekend.

Fire Restrictions and Closures: Tie Creek Road remains closed as equipment works on the contingency line. For public safety, Forest lands in the north half of the West Pioneer Mountains, north of Lacy and McVey Creeks, may remain closed at least through September, until soaking rains come for several days in a row.

When hunting season begins, lots of other great hunting areas will remain **open** around the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. The east Pioneers, the south side of the west Pioneers, Anaconda Range and Big Hole will all be open in the Wise River District alone.

Southwest Montana remains in Stage 2 Fire Restrictions which prohibit smoking outdoors except in cleared, designated areas, and prohibit all open flame except gas stoves.
