

BLACK MOUNTAIN FIRE

Southwestern Land Office, Montana DNRC

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Thursday, July 21, 2022

Fire Summary: The **Black Mountain Fire** is burning in grass and timber northwest of Missoula, between Sherman Gulch and Martin Gulch. Human caused, the fire is currently 17.5 acres, 5% contained, and under Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) wildland fire protection. Reported on Wednesday, July 20, Missoula Rural Fire District (MRFD) provided initial attack as the closest resource and the fire was initially managed under unified command, or managed jointly, by the MRFD, Missoula County Sheriff's Office, and the DNRC. Aggressive suppression from the air was employed with the use of two helicopters, two single-engine air tankers (SEATs), and one large air tanker. The fire transitioned to sole DNRC management today and suppression efforts included the two

Photo Credit: Benji Hegg

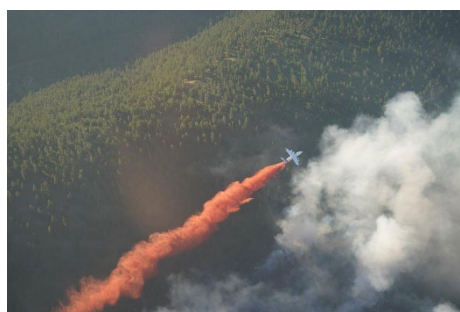


Photo Credit: Benji Hegg

helicopters, SEATs, five engines, a Type 2 hand crew, as well as numerous large equipment (skidsteer, water tenders). One dozer and an additional Type 2 hand crew have been requested. Firefighters are working to improve and extend fire control lines. No structures are threatened at this time. Current fire movement has been to the north and east.

Continued hot, dry temperatures and location in the wildland urban interface add to the incident's complexity, but the extensive road system has also allowed easier access for ground resources.

Fire Behavior:

Weather:

Planned Actions:

Evacuations & Closures:

The fire is active and burning in grass and timber on 10-20% slope.

Expected hot, dry weather with low relative humidity and gusty winds. Passage of cold front Friday may include isolated thunderstorms.

Full suppression from the air and ground.

No evacuations ordered at this time. Only local traffic is encouraged in the area, and please be cognizant and respectful of an increase in fire traffic on Big Flat Road and the surrounding area. **Temporary trail closures are in place on DNRC grounds southeast of the Dale Dahlgren Baseball Complex and DNRC Missoula Unit office complex due to increased fire traffic and presence of the Black Mountain Fire Camp.** Walkers are still welcome to enjoy the trails south of the DNRC Southwestern Land Office on 27th Avenue and east of the DNRC Tree Nursery.

Prevention Message: Fire danger is currently **HIGH** in Missoula County. With three out of every four wildfires being started by humans in our County, please do your part to prevent a wildfire spark! Visit www.MTFireInfo.org for active fire information as well as fire restrictions in place across the state.