



FACT SHEET

41 Complex Fire

September 14, 2011 – 7 a.m. Update

Fire Information Incident Center: (406) 375-8123 or (406) 375-8125, 7:00 am to 10:00pm

Fire Information Trailer @ Canyon View Church, 195 Skalkaho Highway.
Weekday hours – 12 pm to 7 pm.

For more information, visit www.inciweb.org/incident/2544

What: 41 Complex Fire

Started: August 28, 2011 at 9 p.m.

Location: Sapphire Mountains 10 miles east of Hamilton, Montana

Jurisdiction: Darby Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest

Cooperating Agencies: Forest Service, Ravalli County, Ravalli RFD's, Ravalli County Sheriff, Montana Dept of Emergency Services, Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Current size:	41 Fire - 105 acres	Containment:	41 Fire - 100%
	Up Top - 9,249 acres		Up Top - 3%
	Coyote		Coyote
	Meadows - 1,431 acres		Meadows - 0%
	Fox Peak - 275 acres		Fox Peak - 0%
	TOTAL - 11,060 acres		

Costs To Date: \$3,046,479

Resources on Fire: 365 people are assigned to the fire, including 10 crews, 14 engines, 3 helicopters, 3 water tender, 4 feller bunchers, one skidger, and 3 dozers.

Today's Activity: Fire fighters are working to solidify fire lines on the northwest, west and south side of the Up Top Fire in advance of predicted changes in the prevailing weather pattern tomorrow. Line has been completed on the west side of the fire and across the Gird Creek drainage, and is being held and improved with pumps and hose to bring water to the line. Three hotshot crews are close to connecting fireline along the northwest side of the Up Top Fire to keep the fire out of Saint Clair Creek. Four feller buncher machines are also working to complete a contingency line in the event the fire jumps the line on the northwest side of the fire. Crews are expected to make slow, steady, and sure progress in this area. Work in this area of the fire is difficult due to the steepness of the terrain, density of the vegetation and rolling materials. The Up Top Fire has spread northeast past Skalkaho Falls, but pumps and sprinklers set up around the falls several days ago have protected the vegetation surrounding the falls area. Coyote Meadows Fire grew over night to the southeast and remains unstaffed.

Firefighting resources are being concentrated on the Up Top Fire to reinforce firelines which will enhance the protection of private property. An additional line has been constructed between the Up Top Fire and the private land to the west in case the fire crosses the main fire line.

All fires are expected to grow during the daily burning period due to continued hot, dry weather and active burning.

The public can expect increased fire traffic on Hamilton Heights Road, Skalkaho Highway, and Tammany Lane as firefighters access the northwest side of the Up Top Fire. Please drive carefully.

Closures:

The Skalkaho Pass Highway (State Highway 38) from mile post 14 to mile post 30 remains closed. Railroad Creek Road (Forest Road No. 711) is closed in its entirety from Skalkaho Rye Road #75 to Skalkaho Highway. Skalkaho Rye Road #75 is closed from the #720 junction to the junction of the #1394 road. Butterfly Road #364 is closed at the Darby/Stevensville District boundary. In addition to road closures, a temporary flight restriction (TFR) has been placed over the fire area with a ceiling of 12,000 feet. Additional closure information can be found on Inciweb.

Special Messages: Smoke will continue to settle in the Valley through next week. Contact Ravalli County Public Health @ 375-6577 or www.todaysair.mt.gov for additional information. The public can view photographs of the 41 Complex Fire and other information at www.inciweb.org.

Greg Poncin's Northern Rockies Incident Management Team is managing the fires.

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