



# FACT SHEET

## 41 Complex Fire

September 16, 2011 – 8 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](http://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
Up Top	-	9,631 acres
Coyote		
Meadows	-	1,466 acres
Fox Peak	-	278 acres
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	<b>11,480 acres</b>

**Containment:**

41 Fire	-	100%
Up Top	-	10%
Coyote		
Meadows	-	0%
Fox Peak	-	0%

**Costs To Date: \$3,400,000**

**Resources on Fire:** 386 people are assigned to the fire, including 12 crews, 13 engines, 3 helicopters, 4 water tenders, 3 feller bunchers, one skidger, and 3 dozers.

**The area experienced cooler temperatures and scattered showers. The Up Top Fire received ¼ inch precipitation overnight.**

**Today's Activity:** Firefighters continued to concentrate their efforts on the Up Top fire to protect private property to the west. Along road 364, on the Northwest perimeter of the fire, feller-bunchers continued their work to construct contingency line eastward. On the western edge of the fire, crews will improve line from the end of Forest Road 13205 south through the 41 Fire, along Forest Road 74897, to the end of Forest Road 1363. Firefighters will "mop up", widening the fireline to at least 100 feet inside the fire perimeter. Along the southwest portion of the fire, firefighters are completing line to tie in to Skalkaho Highway today.

As a result of the fireline that has been built and secured on the west side of the fire, some crews and equipment will be released. It is expected that management of the fire will be turned back to the Bitterroot National Forest by early next week.

Skalkaho Highway is closed to the public. Yesterday, crews cleared down trees and snags from the roadway, and a grader cleared rocks from the road to provide access to fire crews to the north and northeastern portions of the fire. Until the hillsides along the road stabilize, the road will remain closed to public access. Sprinkler systems were laid out around Mud Lake and Crystal Creek campgrounds on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest to protect these areas.

The Coyote Meadows and Fox Peak fires remain unstaffed and showed little fire activity yesterday.

**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](http://www.todaysair.mt.gov) for additional information. The public can view photographs of the 41 Complex Fire and other information at [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org).

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