

Davis Coulee Fire
September 17, 2026



FIRE STATUS

15,470 Acres | 20% Contained | 58 Personnel

START DATE

September 13, 2026

LOCATION

9 miles southwest of Crow Agency, MT

CAUSE

Lightning

FIRE INFORMATION

2026.daviscoulee@firenet.gov

www.facebook.com/DavisCouleeFire/

INCIDENT COMMANDERS

Richard Hayner, IC3

Dustin Sciacca, IC3(T)

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Crews will continue strengthening and securing the fire's edge today, using hand crews and equipment where terrain allows. Interior burning operations are planned to consume remaining fuels and reduce the chance of spotting if winds pick up. Flames and smoke will be visible in areas where these operations are underway. The public is encouraged to slow down, remain alert, and use caution around fire personnel working in the area.

Warm temperatures and persistent winds are contributing to smoldering and creeping fire behavior. Firefighters will keep mopping up along the line, checking for residual heat, and applying direct extinguishment strategy tactics where needed.

Rugged, inaccessible terrain still poses significant safety challenges and restricts where firefighters can work directly. Aviation resources will keep assisting in locations that are unsafe or unreachable for ground crews.

The SET evacuation status issued east of the fire has been lifted. No evacuations are currently in place.

A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) is in place over the fire area. Please do not fly drones—if you fly, we can't.

WEATHER

Today will be warm and partly sunny with temperatures near 80 and afternoon relative humidity in the mid-30s, keeping fine fuels dry and ready to carry surface fire. Light east to southeast winds will limit large-scale spread, but steady alignment in open grass and sage could still support pockets of active movement. Mixing heights rising to around 4,500 feet will help smoke ventilate and allow interior heat to respond more efficiently to shifting winds, producing occasional short-range spotting or brief column development.

By Friday, conditions shift as clouds thicken and showers become likely, with a slight chance of thunderstorms. Fire activity should begin to moderate once moisture arrives, but warm temperatures ahead of the rain may still allow intermittent surface fire. Thunderstorms introduce the potential for sudden, erratic outflow winds that can briefly increase spread or change fire direction. As wetting rain develops; potentially up to half an inch between Friday and Saturday, expect a significant reduction in fire behavior, improved overnight recoveries, and limited spread potential heading into the weekend.

OTHER HELPFUL LINKS

Road Conditions: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/detailed.aspx>

Weather: Billings, MT. <https://www.weather.gov/byz/>

Fire Restrictions: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/fire/regional-info/montana/fire-restrictions>

Air Quality and Smoke Map: www.fire.airnow.gov

Temporary Flight Restriction: www.tfr.faa.gov

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