
Big Timber Ranger District News Release



For Immediate Release
Date: November 12, 2007

Contact: Marna Daley, (406) 587-6703
(406) 570-5526

Chichi Fire Burns Over 10,000 Acres Tonight

Big Timber, MT... The Chichi Fire, reported this evening, has burned over 10,000 acres west of Melville, Montana. The fire was reported on Monday, November 12 around 5:30 p.m. and is being pushed by winds gusting to 80 miles per hour.

The fire is located approximately 19 miles north and west of Big Timber. "We believe the fire originated on the east side of the Crazy Mountain Range in the Gallatin National Forest, was pushed but is now burning predominantly on private land," said Marna Daley, Gallatin National Forest Public Affairs Officer. Currently, 15 homes have been evacuated and 12 homes have been placed on pre-evacuation notice, primarily in the Wheeler Creek and portions of Melville Road areas.

Resources on scene include six engines and one water-tender from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), two Gallatin National Forest engines, approximately 12 Sweet Grass County engines, two Sweet Grass County graders and two Sweet Grass County water-tenders.

Additional resources are being ordered including more engines and aircraft and aviation resources. For more information please contact the Sweet Grass County Sheriff's Department at (406) 932-5143 or the Big Timber Ranger Station at (406) 932-5155.

- FS -



Highway 10 East, PO Box 1130, Big Timber, MT 59011-1130
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>