

Cherry Peak Fire



INCIDENT ACTION PLAN

8/24/2026

Operational Period 0600-2100

Lolo National Forest, Region 1

P1SX9J26 (0116)

SABHRS: 906492

MT-LNF-260379



INCIDENT OBJECTIVES	1. Incident Name Cherry Peak	2. Date Prepared 8/23/2026	3. Time Prepared 1600
	4. Operational Period August 24, 2026 DAY SHIFT 0600 - 2100		
5. Leader's Intent Success is defined as prioritizing responder and public safety while minimizing impacts/threats to identified values at risk. All incident actions must reflect a commitment to aviation, responder, and public safety. Use the risk management process outlined in the IRPG, adhere to the 10 Standard Firefighting Orders, and mitigate the 18 Situations That Shout Watch Out and LCES. If a tactical hazard cannot be mitigated to an acceptable level of risk, do not proceed until mitigation is in place.			
6. Incident Objectives 1. On the Cherry Peak Fire, execute a full suppression strategy utilizing direct and indirect tactics to minimize impacts to values at risk and firefighter exposure. 2. Prevent or minimize fire impacts to these prioritized values: private residences and property in the Cherry Creek drainage, Private and Federal timber sales, and the Eddy Mountain Lookout. 3. Provide Initial Attack within the TFR (Temporary Flight Restriction). 4. Consider operational strategies and tactics that minimize smoke impacts to communities and private landowners.			
7. Attachments (X – if attached)			
☒ Organization List - ICS 203	☒ Air Ops Sum. – ICS 220	☒ WF206 8 Line	
☒ Division Assignment Lists - ICS 204	☒ Medical Plan - ICS 206	☐ Fire Behavior	
☒ Communication Plan – ICS 205	☒ Unit Log 214	☒ Weather	
8. Prepared By (Planning Section Chief) Brittney M. Allestad ICS 202		9. Approved By (Incident Commander) TREVOR UNSWORTH Trevor Unsworth Digitally signed by TREVOR UNSWORTH Date: 2026.08.23 08:16:24 -0600 NFES 1326	

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE CHART		7. Operations Section	
1. Incident Name Cherry Peak Fire		Operations	Daniel Stevens 406-370-7018
2. Date August 24, 2026			
3. Incident Commander and Staff			
Incident Commander	Trevor Unsworth 406-544-7562	Divisions	
Information Officer	Brandalyn Vonk (Virtual) 435-650-2694	Alpha	Cole Benson 406-552-2193
		Zulu	Kyle Ownsbey 530-643-9052 Patrick Grimes (T) 530-598-5454
4. Agency	Name		
USFS LNF AA	Cystal Stonesifer 406-210-7593 Curtis Rintz (T)		
Forest Supervisor	Ben Johnson Jeremy Casterson (Deputy)		
Forest Fire Staff Officer	Scott Schrenk 406-250-0354		
IBA	Amy Erickson 406-499-5609		
REAF	Kristin Richardson 514-619-4583		
5. Planning Section			
Chief	Brittney Allestad 406-207-7428		
GISS	Becky Howard (RIST)		
Documentation	Gianna Vaccaro (RIST)		
		Air Operations Branch	
		Forest Aviation Officer	Josh Klare 406-406-360-0875
6. Logistics Section		Helibase Manager	Andrew Nepstad 541-531-7260 Mark Troxell (T) 541-490-6146
Chief	Kasey Craft 406-261-9261 Heather Berman 406-210-5287		
Base Camp Manager	Logan Boyer (T) 406-274-0902		
		8. Finance	
9. Prepared by: Brittney Allestad, PSC3		Date/Time: 8/23/2026 1600	

SAFETY MESSAGE

LOGISTICAL SELF-AWARENESS IN HELICOPTER-SUPPORTED OPERATIONS

Stay Ahead of Your Sustainment Needs

This incident is logistically dependent on helicopter support. Ground resupply is limited or unavailable across most divisions. Weather, aircraft availability, and mission priority can delay or cancel scheduled flights without notice. Plan and act accordingly.

Know your burn rate before you're in it.

Track your consumption of water, food, fuel, and batteries against your workload — not against the clock. A hot, steep shift will outpace a "planned" resupply window fast.

Order early. Order redundant.

- Request resupply at 50% remaining, not empty.
- No comms, no rescue. Charge it, carry spares, call it in before it's a problem.
- Fuel, mix, bar oil — you know the math on your saws better than anyone. Don't let pride in production run you dry.
- Water discipline: heat and exertion in this terrain outstrip resupply cycles. Don't wait until you're rationing to call it in.

Have a Plan B for the flight that doesn't come.

- Identify your 24-hour self-sufficiency posture at every spike camp.
- Know your nearest alternate resupply option before you need it.
- Communicate shortfalls up the chain immediately — don't absorb the risk quietly and hope the next ship makes it in.

Bottom line: In a helicopter-supported operation, logistics is a hazard category like any other. Anticipate it, communicate it, and never let your crew's sustainment run behind the mission.

Fire Weather Forecast

August 24, 2026

DISCUSSION

A ridge of high pressure will bring a warming and drying trend Monday into Tuesday. Confidence is high for southeast winds Monday morning, with winds turning out of the west-northwest during the afternoon. Thermal belts begin to strengthen Monday night, with limited RH recoveries. On Tuesday, a modest pressure gradient across western Montana will promote east-southeast winds during the entire day with speeds generally less than 10 mph.

MONDAY

Sky/Weather: Mostly sunny.

CWR (> 0.10 Inch): 0 percent.

Chance Lightning: 0 percent.

Maximum Temperature: 71-76.

Minimum Humidity: 24-29 percent.

Wind (20 ft): Southeast 4-7 mph in the morning becoming west-northwest 4-7 mph in the afternoon.

Mixing Height: 2500 ft agl increasing to 7000 ft agl.

Mixing Winds: Southwest 5 mph.

Precipitation Amount: 0.00 inches.

MONDAY NIGHT

Sky/Weather: Mostly clear.

CWR (> 0.10 Inch): 0 percent.

Chance Lightning: 0 percent.

Minimum Temperature: 52-57.

Maximum Humidity: 42-47 percent.

Wind (20 ft): Variable 1-3 mph.

Mixing Height: 4500 ft agl decreasing to 500 ft agl early in the evening.

Mixing Winds: East 5 mph.

Precipitation Amount: 0.00 inches.

TUESDAY

Sky/Weather: Mostly sunny.

CWR (> 0.10 Inch): 0 percent.

Chance Lightning: 0 percent.

Maximum Temperature: 75-80.

Minimum Humidity: 21-26 percent.

Wind (20 ft): East 5-7 mph becoming southeast 5-8 mph in the afternoon.

Mixing Height: 3000 ft agl increasing to 10000 ft agl.

Mixing Winds: Southeast 5 mph.

Precipitation Amount: 0.00 inches.

[illegible]

[illegible]

AIR OPERATIONS SUMMARY (ICS 220)

1. Incident Name: Cherry Peak MT-LNF-260379		2. Operational Period: Date From: 8/24/2026 Time From: 0600		Date To: 8/25/2026 Time To: 2200		3. Sunset: 20:34		Pumpkin: 21:04	
4. Remarks (safety notes, hazards, air operations special equipment, etc.): * River recreation in dip site locations SUNSET PROTOCOL- Recommended that tactical air operations be conducted only until sunset and to utilize the 30 minutes after sunset for flights back to an airport or helibase.		5. Ready Alert Aircraft: Medivac: Two Bear Air- Missoula Dispatch Life Flight Missoula/ Shorthaul in Butte							
8. Frequencies:		TFR		127.1750		AM		FM	
9. Fixed-Wing (category/kind/type, make/model, N#, base):		Air Tactical Group Supervisor Aircraft:							
Order Air Attack through Missoula Dispatch									
7. Personnel:		Name:		Phone Number:					
Forest Aviation Officer		Josh Klare		406-360-0875					
Helibase Manager		Andrew Nepstad		541-531-7260					
Helispots		H-1		Cherry Peak		164.7500			
		H-2		47 29.32 115 11.04		164.8000			
		H-3		47 29.96 115 10.80					
10. Helicopters (use additional sheets as necessary):									
FAA N#	Category/Kind/Type	Make/Model	Base	Available	Start	Remarks			
4RA	Type 1 EU	Chinook	Missoula Airport	0900	0800	NRGA/Bucket			
7WF	Type 3 EU	Bell 407	Plains Helibase	0830	0800	Forest IA			
6RA	Type 1 EU	Chinook	Libby	0900	0800	NRGA Lend/Lease			
8ES	Type 1EU	Chinook	Kalispell	0900	0800	NRGA Lend/Lease			
332N (Rappel)	Type 1 EU	Super Puma	Missoula AFD	0830	0800	NRGA Lend/Lease			
11. Prepared by: Name: Josh Klare		Position/Title:		FAO		Signature:			
ICS 220, Page 1		Date/Time:							

INCIDENT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PLAN (ICS 205)

1. Incident Name: Cherry Peak		2. Date/Time Prepared: Date: 8/23/2026 Time: 1600		3. Operational Period: Date From: 8/24/2026 Time From: 0600		Date To: 8/24/2026 Time To: 2100			
4. Basic Radio Channel Use:									
Zone Grp.	Ch #	Function	Channel Name/Trunked Radio System Talk group	RX Freq N or W	RX Tone /NAC	TX Freq N or W	TX Tone/NAC	Mode (A, D, or M)	Remarks
	1	W. DIRECT	DIRECT	172.3875		172.3875	127.3	A	
	2	W. REPEAT	EDDY MTN	172.3875		164.1750	131.8	A	
	3	TAC 2	DIV Z	167.6250		167.6250		A	DIV Z
	4	TAC 1	DIV A	167.1125		167.1125		A	DIV A
	5								
	6	A/G PRIMARY	A/G	164.7500		164.7500		A	CHERRY PK PRI
	7	A/G SEC	A/G	164.8000		164.8000		A	CHERRY PK SEC
	8	A/G 5	A/G 5	166.7500		166.7500		A	WEST ZONE A/G 1A
	9	A/G 48	A/G 48	167.8875		167.8875		A	EAST ZONE A/G 1A
	10								
	11	MUTUAL AID	RED	154.0700		154.0700	156.7	A	VFD
	12	AIR/MEDICAL	TAN	155.3400		155.3400	156.7	A	AIR TRANSPORT
	13	GROUND AMBO	WHITE	155.2800		155.2800	156.7	A	GROUND TRANSPORT
	14								
	15								
	16	AIRGUARD	AIRGUARD	168.625		168.625	110.9	A	EMERGENCY AIR
5. Special Instructions:									
6. Prepared by: Name: KASEY CRAFT				Signature: <i>Kasey Craft</i>					
ICS 205				Date/Time: 08/23/2026 1600					

Finance Message

All resources will submit **Digital** CTRs & Shift Tickets. Time documents should be emailed daily to the finance inbox listed below.

Incident Finance email: 2026.cherrypeak.finance@firenet.gov

Helpful Hints for Success!

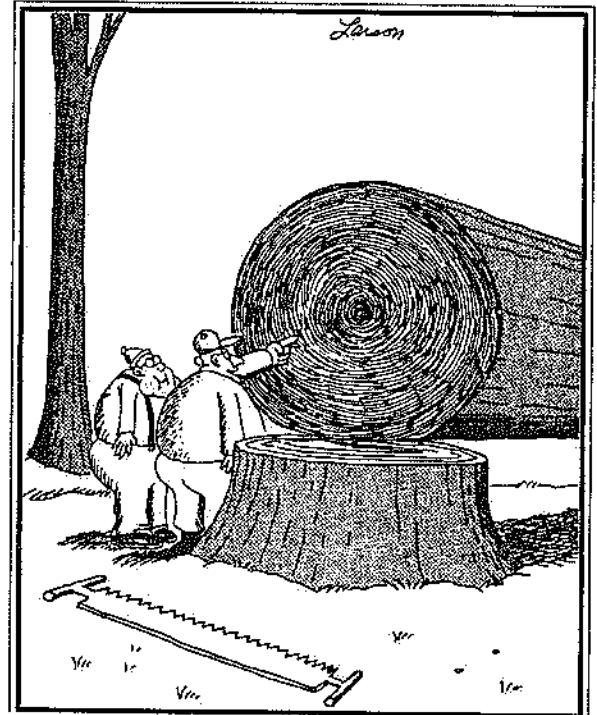
- Hazard Pay – “H = Hazard Pay” is not a sufficient justification for hazard pay. Please elaborate in the remarks. (Ex. Hazard pay for working on an uncontrolled fireline.)

Shift Ticket/CTR Checklist:

- Signatures – Ensure your CTR is signed by your Incident Supervisor prior to digital submission.
- Resource Order # - Please make sure you list your resource order number in the upper right-hand box of your CTR.

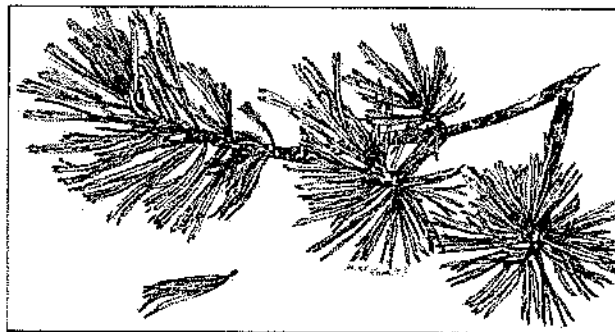
Whitebark Pine – A Living Legacy

- Whitebark pine is a five-needle white pine. It's a slow-growing, long-lived tree with a life span of up to **500 years and sometimes more than 1,000 years**. The oldest known white bark pine is located nearby in Idaho and identified to be 1,294 years old!
- Found in upper and subalpine ecosystems, whitebark pine is a foundation species, and it's in trouble. Whitebark pine is currently listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.
- As a foundation species, they help create suitable habitat for other species. They are valued for protecting watersheds and act as snow fences to hold moisture later in the spring, gradually releasing water into stream systems. Their deep roots stabilize rocky and poorly developed soils.
- This tree is in danger of functional extinction due to the introduced white pine blister rust, bark beetle attack, and encroachment of shade-tolerant conifers.



"And see this ring right here, Jimmy? ... That's another time when the old fellow miraculously survived some big forest fire."

These trees can easily be damaged when we fight fire because they often grow in the same location we build fireline and helispots. It is very important that we do what we can to protect the remaining whitebark pine in these areas. Help by identifying them and not cutting this species. Ask your local REAF about it!



Whitebark pine have 5 needles per fascicle, clustered at branch ends. Whitebark pines can be confused with lodgepole pine, which have similar bark, but only 2 needles per fascicle.

1. Incident/Project Name				2. Operational Period			
Cherry Peak Fire				Date/Time 08/24/2026		0600-2100	
3. Ambulance Services							
Ambulance	Complete Address			Phone & EMS Frequency		Advanced Life Support (ALS) Yes No	
Plains Community Ambulance	10 Kruger Rd. Plains, MT 59859			911/ MIDC			
Thompson Falls Ambulance	Thompson Falls, MT 59873			911/ MIDC			
4. Air Ambulance Services							
Name		Phone		Type of Aircraft & Capability			
Life Flight Network - Missoula, MT		911 or thru MIDC		Paramedics/Flight Nurse			
Two Bear Air - Kalispell, MT		Flathead (406)-758-5610		Hoist capable, SAR, Paramedics, Flight nurses			
5. Hospitals							
Name Complete Address		Coordinate Standard		Travel Time Air Grd		Helipad Yes No	
Clark Fork Valley Hospital 10 Kruger Road Plains, MT 59859		Lat: 47 28.145	Min	Min	406-826-4875 406-826-4800 Helipad	☒	☐
		Long: -114 53.333					
		VHF: 155.280 Tone Tx 156.7	5	15			
St. Patrick's Hospital 500 West Broadway Missoula, MT		Lat: 46 52.528	Min	Hr	406-329-2620 406-543-7271 Helipad	☒	☐
		Long: -113 59.984					
		VHF: 155.280 Tone Tx 156.7	30	1:3			
Harborview 333 8 th Ave Seattle, Washington		Lat: 47 36.169	Hr	Hr	206-744-3074 ER	☒	☐
		Long: -122 19.481					
		VHF:	4	7			
Plains Family Medical 10 Kruger Rd Plains MT 59859		Lat: 47 28.145	Min	Min	406-826-4810	☒	☐
		Long: -114 53.333					
		VHF: 155.280 Tone Tx 156.7	5	15			
6. Branch / Division / Group Area Location Capability							
DIV ALPHA		EMS Responders & Capability		Call 911. Call Missoula Dispatch Center: 406-829-7070.			
		Medical Emergency Channel		WEST REPEAT: EDDY MTN			
DIV ZULU		EMS Responders & Capability		Call 911. Call Missoula Dispatch Center: 406-829-7070.			
		Medical Emergency Channel		WEST REPEAT: EDDY MTN			
7. Name & Location		Remote Camp Location(s)					
8. Prepared By (Medical Unit Leader)				9. Date/Time		10. Reviewed By (Safety Officer)	
Justin Randall, SOFC				08/23/2026		Justin Randall, SOFC	
						08/23/2026	

Medical Incident Report – 8 Line

FOR A NON-EMERGENCY INCIDENT, WORK THROUGH CHAIN OF COMMAND TO REPORT AND TRANSPORT INJURED PERSONNEL AS NECESSARY.

FOR A MEDICAL EMERGENCY: IDENTIFY ON SCENE INCIDENT COMMANDER BY NAME AND POSITION AND ANNOUNCE "MEDICAL EMERGENCY" TO INITIATE RESPONSE FROM IMT COMMUNICATIONS/DISPATCH.

Use the following items to communicate situation to communications/dispatch.

1. CONTACT COMMUNICATIONS / DISPATCH (Verify correct frequency prior to starting report)

Ex: "Communications, Div. Alpha. Stand-by for Emergency Traffic."

2. INCIDENT STATUS: Provide incident summary (including number of patients) and command structure.

Ex: "Communications, I have a Red priority patient, unconscious, struck by a falling tree. Requesting air ambulance to Forest Road 1 at (Lat./Long.) This will be the Trout Meadow Medical, IC is TFLD Jones. EMT Smith is providing medical care."

Severity of Emergency / Transport Priority	☐ RED / PRIORITY 1 Life or limb threatening injury or illness. Evacuation need is IMMEDIATE <i>Ex: Unconscious, difficulty breathing, bleeding severely, 2° – 3° burns more than 4 palm sizes, heat stroke, disoriented.</i> ☐ YELLOW / PRIORITY 2 Serious Injury or illness. Evacuation may be DELAYED if necessary. <i>Ex: Significant trauma, unable to walk, 2° – 3° burns not more than 1-3 palm sizes.</i> ☐ GREEN / PRIORITY 3 Minor Injury or illness. Non-Emergency transport <i>Ex: Sprains, strains, minor heat-related illness.</i>	
Nature of Injury or Illness & Mechanism of Injury		Brief Summary of Injury or Illness (Ex: Unconscious, Struck by Falling Tree)
Transport Request		Air Ambulance / Short Haul/Hoist Ground Ambulance / Other
Patient Location		Descriptive Location & Lat. / Long. (WGS84)
Incident Name		Geographic Name + "Medical" (Ex: Trout Meadow Medical)
On-Scene Incident Commander		Name of on-scene IC of Incident within an Incident (Ex: TFLD Jones)
Patient Care		Name of Care Provider (Ex: EMT Smith)

3. INITIAL PATIENT ASSESSMENT: Complete this section for each patient as applicable (start with the most severe patient)

Patient Assessment:

See IRPG page 106

Treatment:

4. TRANSPORT PLAN:

Evacuation Location (if different): (Descriptive Location (drop point, intersection, etc.) or Lat. / Long.) Patient's ETA to Evacuation Location:

Helispot / Extraction Site Size and Hazards:

5. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES / EQUIPMENT NEEDS:

Example: Paramedic/EMT, Crews, Immobilization Devices, AED, Oxygen, Trauma Bag, IV/Fluid(s), Splints, Rope rescue, Wheeled litter, HAZMAT, Extrication

6. COMMUNICATIONS: Identify State Air/Ground EMS Frequencies and Hospital Contacts as applicable

Function	Channel Name/Number	Receive (RX)	Tone/NAC *	Transmit (TX)	Tone/NAC *
COMMAND					
AIR-TO-GRND					
TACTICAL					

7. CONTINGENCY: Considerations: If primary options fail, what actions can be implemented in conjunction with primary evacuation method? Be thinking ahead.

8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Updates/Changes, etc.

REMEMBER: Confirm ETA's of resources ordered. Act according to your level of training. Be Alert. Keep Calm. Think Clearly. Act Decisively.