

September 13, 2017
Fire Briefing

Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck, County Administrator Darren Coldwell, Clerk & Recorder Robin Benson, Sheriff Bowe, Alan Gerstenecker, Kathi Hooper, John Blodgett, Ernie Anderson, Jeni Lawver, Gregg Smith, Wendy Drake, Heather Benjamin, Brandon Huff and Brent Teske.

9:00 AM

EOC: No update

IT: No Update

County Services: Kathi said air quality is good; moderate in Libby and Eureka. Shelters are housing fewer animals as evacuees return home.

Finance: No update

Schools: No update

Fire Department: Brad said he is tying in with structure protection crews; analyzing needs.

Sheriff's Department: Sheriff Bowe said they will be looking at Upper Bobtail and Seventeen Mile Road area to see if some relief can be given to those areas.

County Commissioners: Commissioner Peck read and expressed frustration about a newspaper article in the Daily Interlake that was not factual and was focused on asbestos in OU3 (mine site). Commissioner Peck clarified there was no suppression action taken on the fire based on OU3/mine site.

I.C. Information and Fire Update: Gregg said we will see more smoke today, but everything is status quo; looks good. Will have a better report tomorrow as the weather changes. Making contact with Sanders County for pre-planning as the Miller Fire is monitored. Helicopters are on standby. Jeni said we will continue to evaluate the need for community meetings. Trying to organize public tours at the fire camps if there is enough staffing.

Brent informed the commission that new signage has been placed up Pipe Creek to advise the public there are trucks entering and hauling logs with wide loads.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Robin Benson, Clerk of the Board

September 14, 2017
Fire Briefing

Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck, County Administrator Darren Coldwell, Clerk & Recorder Robin Benson, Sheriff Bowe, Brent Teske, Brad Lord, Steve Gunderson, Ernie Anderson, Craig Barringer, Michelle Kelly, Kathi Hooper, Jennifer McCully and Jeni Lawver.

9:00 AM **EOC:** The EOC will be staffed through Friday and all calls will be forwarded to the Environmental Health Department from 8am to 5pm.

IT: Ernie recommended to leave the phone system in place until fire activity is diminished.

County Services: Kathi said air quality should be moderate to good today.

Finance: No update

Schools: The forest service is utilizing Asa Wood School during the day.

Fire Department: Brad said he met with Steve Lauer and has been visiting the structure protection groups. Mutual aid is available if fire activity increases.

Sheriff's Department: No update.

County Commissioners: Commissioner Peck commented that we may need to get eyes on the Turner Mountain Ski Lodge; there is fire spot activity closer to Turner Mountain. Commissioner Peck stressed that all phone calls from the press should be referred to the Fire Teams or the EOC.

I.C. Information and Fire Update: Spot fires are being monitored and public meetings are still being scheduled. Brent informed everyone that evacuation status was lifted on the upper Bobtail area yesterday.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Robin Benson, Clerk of the Board

September 15, 2017
Fire Briefing

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a special session on September 15, 2017, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck, County Administrator Darren Coldwell and Deputy Clerk and Recorder Chris Nelson.

9:00 AM **Fire Update:** Present were EMA Director Brent Teske, IT Director Ernie Anderson, Kathi Hooper, Brad Lord, and Jeni Lawver.

Brent Teske said he attended several meetings, surveyed the West Fork fire and is keeping the EOC operational but said things are starting to slow down. He said they will be forwarding the calls to the EOC over the weekend but can mobilize again if necessary.

Kathi Hooper said that air quality in the Libby area is at the unhealthy level.

Brad said that last night they did receive a call to the top of Bobtail for a report of fire. They continue to work on firing on top of Pipe Creek using helicopters. The residents on East Fisher had done a great job of keeping their yards damp using sprinklers. Brad will be going out to the Moose Peak Fire to meet with Kirk Kraft. The Moose Creek Fire is currently 11,587 acres and the West Fork Fire is at 16,940.

Commissioner Jerry Bennett said he had gone up to the fire the previous night and was impressed by all the work that had been done.

They are currently scheduling a meeting Sunday at the retreat center on middle Thompson for an update on the Moose Creek fire and a meeting Monday at the Libby Christian Church for the West Fork Fire.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Chris Nelson, Deputy Clerk of the Board