



NEWS RELEASE

Lolo National Forest

United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Lolo National Forest
Building 24, Fort Missoula
Missoula, Montana 59804

www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo

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Pattee Canyon Picnic Area, Folf Course Closed for Fire Operations

Missoula, MT. – The Missoula Ranger District has closed both the Pattee Canyon Picnic Area and the Pattee Canyon Folf Course indefinitely while fire operations are based at the picnic area, which is 3.5 miles southeast of Missoula. The duration of the closures will depend on containment of the Mt. Sentinel Fire and associated fire operations.

According the Ranger District officials, the closure is needed to ensure both firefighter and public safety, as well as provide for effective fire operations. Bicyclists and motorists are also advised to be aware of additional vehicle traffic along the Pattee Canyon Road, as firefighters, fire engines, and support vehicles will be using the road.

Firefighting operations associated with the Mt. Sentinel Fire, which ignited yesterday evening, will be staged from the picnic area for as long as needed to fight the Mt. Sentinel Fire, according to Ranger District officials. Approximately 70 firefighters are expected to use the picnic area for staging, eating and sleeping. The closure of the folf course is needed, according to officials, because parking and access to the folf course is at the picnic area.

The Missoula City Fire Department also announced this afternoon that two juvenile boys have been cited for igniting the Mt. Sentinel fire. According to Missoula City Fire Inspector Gordy Hughes, a seven-year-old boy and eight-year-old boy were lighting pages of a phonebook with a lighter when one of the pages ignited nearby grass. The boys attempted to put the fire out, Hughes said, but those attempts failed and the boys then panicked and ran from the scene.

For current information on the Pattee Canyon Picnic Area Closure, please contact the Missoula Ranger District at (406) 329-3814.

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