



# ***Frenchtown Rural Fire District***

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## **NOTICE OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACT TO EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

**May 23, 2024**

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### **AREA:**

- Old US Hwy 10 W
- Remount Road
- W Ninemile Road
- Ninemile Ranger Station area to the top of Ninemile Valley
- All areas accessed from these roads/areas

### **RESPONSE IMPACTS:**

- It is expected that emergency response to these areas from the east will have an ADDITIONAL 15 MINUTE RESPONSE TIME, at a minimum.

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Frenchtown Rural Fire District has been notified of a 5 Ton weight limit on the “Ninemile Slide Bridge”, located on Old Hwy 10 W (I-90 Frontage Road) between the I-90 Exit 82 (Ninemile Exit) and Remount Road. This weight limit precludes all FRFD response apparatus (including ambulances, wildland engines, structure engines, and water tenders) from transiting the bridge.

This road/bridge is our primary route from Station 1 in Frenchtown to the areas noted above.

The restriction will require FRFD (and other emergency responders) to access the noted areas by alternate routes. The only current options are via Six Mile, or traveling to Exit 78 (Petty Creek) and then back along Old Hwy 10 W.

The duration of this restriction is unknown at this time but may be several years.

FRFD is analyzing information regarding current fleet, transit times/routes, and potential options to possibly mitigate these impacts. We are also working closely with our partners, including Missoula County OEM, Missoula Emergency Services (MESI), Montana DNRC, and US Forest Service, as we all navigate the circumstances we are faced with.

More details can be found on an MDT news release issued today (attached), including who to contact for more information on the posting.

FRFD currently is unable to provide any other information but will update as we work through options.



*Remount Road*

WEIGHT  
LIMIT  
5  
TONS

*Old Highway 10 W*