

June 20, 2018 - Update for 416 Fire

416 Fire Wildfire
News – 4 hrs. ago

June 20, 2018 (8 a.m.)

Special notes: All residents evacuated during the 416 Fire have now been able to return to their homes and businesses. (Falls Creek Ranch and High Meadows subdivisions remain under pre-evacuation.)

The normal time an Incident Management Team is assigned to a fire is 14 days, after which they return home to rest and prepare for their next assignment. The Rocky Mountain Team will reach this time frame in the latter part of this week. An orderly transition will occur with another highly qualified team, which will then lead the nearly 700 firefighters who remain on the incident. Fire managers are currently planning this transition, and more information will follow as it becomes available. Paramount in this planning is ensuring that the fire, our firefighters, and residents of local communities remain in good hands.

Weather: Relative humidity continues decreasing today, possibly as low as 10%. Temperature will be highs 78-81, lows 44-47. Winds are from the northwest at 8-12 mph with gusts near 25 mph. The Haines Index will remain at 6. By Thursday, isolated afternoon and evening thunderstorms may arrive. As the week goes on, a warming trend continues and humidity levels decrease. If wind speeds also increase, this combination may lead to Red Flag Warnings.

Current Situation: Moisture amounts received over the past few days curtailed active burning for the time being. Today, fire behavior potential remains low, but will rise throughout the week. Surface fuels have reheated enough to support some combustion; this tendency will increase in the coming days. The west side of the fire is most likely to see fire spread first. *Residents should be aware that smoke will be visible as fuels smolder in already burned areas, and some fuels could kindle with visible flame.* The 416 Fire will not be completely cool until the arrival of monsoons.

Branch I (Divisions H, D, A, E, F, and G):

Direct line on the south perimeter is now complete. Today, hotshot crews on the Falls Creek Ridge will improve the indirect line that ties from the Junction Creek Road southeast into the direct line. As operations are completed, crews will hold and patrol until critical weather periods are over.

d businesses on the both the east and west sides of U.S. Highway 550 from mile marker 46.5 at Needles north to the San Juan County line can return to their homes and businesses.

Branch III (Divisions X, Y and Z): In Division X, crews are cleaning up previously cut logs. Firefighters in Division X, Y and Z are moving out equipment and looking for rehabilitation opportunities.

Division II: The Burro Fire is producing a separate update.

See: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5834/>

Closures and Public Safety: U.S. Highway 550 is open without an escort. For up to date information visit www.cotrip.org. For evacuation information, please contact the La Plata County Emergency Operations Center at 970-385-8700 or visit www.co.laplata.co.us. La Plata County's 416 Fire Interactive Map is at <https://bit.ly/416fire>.

There are still countless recreational opportunities available and southwestern Colorado is open for business. Please see these websites for tourism and recreational opportunities:

La Plata County: <http://co.laplata.co.us/>

Official Durango Tourism site: <https://www.durango.org/>

Durango Business Improvement District <http://downtowndurango.org/>

Silverton, CO Chamber of Commerce: <http://www.silvertoncolorado.com/> **and other area chambers of commerce**

Fire Statistics:

Location: 13 miles north of Durango, CO **Start Date:** June 1, 2018

Size: 34,177 acres **Percent Contained:** 35

Total Personnel: 678 **Cause:** Under Investigation

Resources Include: 7 Type 1 hand crews, 4 Type 2 hand crews, 21 engines, 9 dozers, 2 water tenders

Helicopters: Two Type 1 (including the Blackhawk), two Type 2, and two Type 3, (as well as two fixed wing aircraft)