

416 Fire Update



National Incident Management Organization - Joe Reinarz, Incident Commander
Information Center: 970-403-5326
Hours of operation: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Website for 416 Fire: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5822>
Email: 2018_cosjf_416@firenet.gov

June 23, 2018 (8 a.m.)

Weather: A hot and dry air mass remains over the region. There is a RED FLAG WARNING in effect from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. today. Temperature highs are 82 to 86 with humidity at 7-10%. Winds will be 4 to 8 mph with frequent gusts up to 25 mph and occasionally up to 35 mph. Relative humidity recoveries will remain poor overnight into Sunday, setting up Sunday for an additional day of critical fire weather, and there is a Fire Weather Watch for Sunday. As the week goes on, temperatures will continue to be warm, approaching 90 degrees by Wednesday.

Current Situation: Weather, fuel conditions, and topography continue to create the potential for very active to extreme fire behavior where there is an ignition source present. When winds align with slopes and drainages, an opportunity arises for rapid uphill fire spread, followed by backing behavior and then a slope reversal (fire crossing onto a slope of opposite aspect). Fire activity is most likely today on the northwest corner and southwest corner of the fire. Dispersed smoke or smoke columns may be visible.

Smoke and flame are still visible within the fire's interior. This could be seen yesterday and last night on the north perimeter within an area of approximately 5 to 10 acres. There was also smoke and flame on the southwest edge near the Buck Creek area. Firefighters are paying close attention to this activity and are monitoring for any needed response. Burning operations between the fire and the indirect line are not currently planned, however this remains an option should fire behavior intensify and create a need for more aggressive defense strategies to keep the fire east of Junction Creek Rd. Residents may see aircraft flying reconnaissance or dropping water and water enhancer (gel) today.

Smoldering materials within the fire perimeter will continue to ignite as conditions grow warmer and dryer. Such interior fire activity is generally not a threat, and firefighters will check on concerning hotspots or new areas of spread.

Yesterday near the *Division D and A* border, crews began seeding at the end of Falls Creek Rd and continued chipping and clean-up procedures in all divisions. Today, crews continue to clean up equipment, logs, and brush along the 550 corridor and in the area of Purgatory Resort. Skidders, chippers, and masticating machines are all in use to rehabilitate and clean up these areas.

Fires can cause damage that requires special efforts to prevent problems afterward. On Monday, a Burned Area Emergency Response team (BAER) assigned to the 416 Fire will hold its initial meeting to begin preparing for action. The BAER is a specialized team staffed by hydrologists, soil scientists, engineers, biologists, vegetation specialists, archeologists, and others who rapidly evaluate the burned area. The team determines and prescribes the necessary treatments to stabilize natural and cultural resources. A BAER assessment usually begins before the wildfire has been fully contained, and there are a variety of emergency stabilization techniques that the BAER team might recommend. The BAER team's assessments and subsequent implementations will be coordinated with the state, county and city.

Closures and Public Safety: For up to date information visit www.cotrip.org. 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

Size: 34,278 acres

Total Personnel: 507

Resources Include: 6 Type 1 hand crews, 5 Type 2 hand crews, 15 engines, 5 dozers, 1 water tenders

Helicopters: One Type 1, one Type 2, and one Type 3, (as well as two fixed wing aircraft)

Start Date: June 1, 2018

Percent Contained: 37

Cause: Under Investigation