

June 21, 2018 - 416 Fire Update

416 Fire Wildfire
News – 6 hrs. ago

Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team - Todd Pechota, 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_cosif_416@firenet.gov

June 21, 2018 (8 a.m.)

Special notes: Today at 3 p.m., most San Juan National Forest and Durango-area BLM-managed lands will reopen (fire areas are still closed). Stage 2 fire restrictions remain in effect. All open space and trails in the City of Durango will reopen for use, at 3 p.m., with exception of Lake Nighthorse and surrounding shoreline, which will reopen at 7 a.m. Friday, June 22nd.

The Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team is transitioning today with the Portland National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) team. The transition involves each member of the Rocky Mountain team transferring their knowledge about management of the fire to their counterpart on the NIMO team. This ensures a seamless change in management of the fire as one team returns home for rest and the other team takes over management of the fire on Friday.

Weather: A critical fire weather period begins today with temperatures rising (highs 79-84) and relative humidity values approaching the low teens (minimum 10-13%), however winds are expected to remain moderate. A dry weather disturbance moves through the area on Friday, bringing the possibility of gusty winds along with the hottest and driest day of the week. There is a Fire Weather Watch for Friday; this could easily become a Red Flag Warning. Temperatures and humidity values will moderate slightly Saturday and Sunday, reducing the threat for critical fire weather.

Current Situation: The wetting effect on fuels from the rainstorm on Sunday is rapidly dissipating. With high temperatures and low humidity today, active burning can be expected to occur where hotspots are in contact with dead surface fuels. Fuels will heat up as soon as 11 a.m., leaving a longer overall burning period for the day. *Residents should be aware that smoke will be visible as fuels smolder in already burned areas, and some fuels could kindle with visible flame. Smoke coming from the interior of the fire is generally not a threat.* Helicopters may be seen dropping water on hotspots closer to the perimeter, should they arise.

Branch I (Divisions A, D, E, F, G, and H): Hotshot crews completed the indirect line on the Falls Creek Ridge yesterday, and there is now more containment on the south side of the perimeter. In the afternoon, some hotspots developed, giving off visible smoke. Helicopters dropped water on the spots, and firefighters were flown in to mitigate in this

area using hand tools. A short squad of Craig Hotshots will fly back in today to maintain these areas.

Branch III (Divisions X, Y and Z): Objectives for mitigation, structure protection, and line construction have been met in Division X. Firefighters are now working on rehabilitating the area. Divisions Y and Z are also being rehabilitated.

Division II: The Burro Fire is producing a separate update: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5834/>

Today at 6 a.m., Burro Fire command transfers to a Type 3 team under jurisdiction of the San Juan National Forest.

Closures and Public Safety: U.S. Highway 550 is open without an escort. 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 **Start Date:** June 1, 2018

Size: 34,184 acres **Percent Contained:** 37

Total Personnel: 632 **Cause:** Under Investigation

Resources Include: 7 Type 1 hand crews, 4 Type 2 hand crews, 16 engines, 9 dozers, 2 water tenders

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