

June 26, 2018 - 416 Fire Update - Evening

416 Fire Wildfire
News – 11 hrs. ago

416 Fire Evening Update

Fire Statistics:

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

Size: 35,195 acres (234 acres growth) Percent Contained: 36

Total Personnel: 389 Cause: Under Investigation

Resources Include: 4 Type 1 hand crews, 4 Type 2 hand crews, 12 engines, 1 dozers, 1 water tender.

Helicopters: Two Type 1, one Type 2, and one Type 3, and one fixed wing aircraft.

Tuesday, June 26, 2018 (8 p.m.)

Weather: The forecasted high temperatures, low relative humidity and strong winds throughout the fire area today caused the 416 Fire to increase in activity and intensity, thus causing the fire to spread to the north into the Hermosa Creek Wilderness. The fire weather forecast for tonight calls for lows in the fifties with very little relative humidity recovery which will increase the potential for fire growth throughout the fire area over the next 24-36 hours. Incident meteorologists are forecasting a potential fire weather watch within the next 36-48 hours due to an increase of hot, dry and windy conditions.

The increase in fire activity today was fuel, topography and weather driven, it was not a result of the burnout operations conducted on the western perimeter of the fire.

Current Situation: This morning, Hotshot crews spent the morning preparing Forest Road 171 (Junction Creek) in preparation for firing operations, which occurred successfully throughout the day. As of this evening, the day's firing operations have been successfully achieved. These operations are allowing fire managers to safely meet the incident objectives while providing for the safety of the firefighters and the public while minimizing the smoke impact to the local communities. In addition to ground firing operations, Hotshot firefighters were aided in their burnout operations with support from helicopters which utilized plastic sphere dispensers (PSD) to introduce ground fire to areas inaccessible to fire crews due to the geographic limitations found on the western portion of the fire.

In order to minimize travel time and increase safety for firefighters, fire managers have established a spike camp for firefighters along Forest Road 171. The Junction Creek spike camp makes provision for firefighters to increase fireline production and improve their safety margins due to an increase in time spent on the fire line, not transitioning from the incident command post to the western portion of the fire. In addition to this the spike camp provides for a reduced ETA to fireline should the need arise. The spike camp will host multiple hotshot crews and fire apparatus throughout the duration of the incident.

Today, fire crews were also visible along the Highway 550 corridor as they continued to improve and secure the existing fireline while aiding the community along Highway 550 with fuel reduction near residences. Crews continued to work with homeowners with the chipping of vegetation piles created during fire suppression activities south of Purgatory Resort. The public is encouraged to contact firecrews working in their area if vegetation piles have not been addressed and removed. Additional fire information will continue to be distributed along Highway 550 at Honeyville and Needles during daytime operations.

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>.

National Incident Management Organization - Joe Reinartz, 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