

# 416 Fire Update



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](mailto:2018_cosjf_416@firenet.gov)

**June 22, 2018 (8 p.m.)**

**Special notes:** The Portland National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) team assumed management of the 416 Fire at 6 a.m. this morning. The team will continue fire management strategies and tactics implemented by the previous Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team.

**Weather:** There is a RED FLAG WARNING issued for Saturday, with highs in the mid-80s and minimum humidity levels at 7-10%. Winds will come from the west at 10-15 mph with gusts up to 25 mph. A fire weather watch is also in effect for Sunday. As the week goes on, temperatures will continue to warm, approaching 90 degrees by Wednesday.

**Current Situation:** Today's winds contributed to an increase in fire activity as predicted. Smoke and flame were visible within the fire's interior on both the north and south perimeter. Firefighters are aware of this activity and are monitoring for any needed response. *Residents should be aware that there are still multiple locations of smoldering dead/downed materials that will likely ignite due to increasing dryness and wind. Smoke and flame will continue to be visible. While it may appear alarming at first sight, such activity in the interior of the fire is generally not a threat, and firefighters will check on concerning hotspots or new areas of spread.* As critical weather continues and fire spreads to the west and northwest, dispersed smoke or even large columns may be visible overhead. Residents may also smell smoke. Fire activity on the west side will be monitored by air.

Most daily operations are now focused on rehabilitation; however, there are hand crews, engines, dozers, and other resources prepared to immediately implement firefighting tactics should fire activity intensify. Engines will patrol the 550 corridor this evening.

*In Division D*, four hotshot crews remained on the south/southwest ridge today to monitor the fireline for any hotspots. As mitigation and structure preparation took place over the past few weeks, materials such as logs and slash accumulated outside of constructed fuel breaks/fireline. Crews worked today to process and remove these materials.

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](http://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:** 34,224 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