

# 416 Fire Update



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://www.inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5822>  
Email: [2018\\_cosjf\\_416@firenet.gov](mailto:2018_cosjf_416@firenet.gov)

**June 19, 2018 (8 a.m.)**

**Weather:** Warm and dry conditions continue today with temperatures in the upper 70s. Minimum relative humidity will fall to the low teens by this afternoon. Southwest winds will shift to the northeast late this evening as a weather disturbance moves eastward through Colorado. Winds will be between 2 and 12 mph throughout the day, and there may be occasional gusts up to 25 mph in the afternoon and evening. The Haines Index has returned to 6. (The Haines Index measures the potential for dry, unstable air to contribute to the development of fire.)

As the week progresses, conditions will continue to move back toward critical fire weather. The combination of rising temperatures, decreasing relative humidity, and increasing winds has the potential to create a Red Flag Warning later this week.

**Current Situation:** Fire activity today should be confined to residual burning of heavy fuels, with some potential for slow, spreading surface fire in grassy fuels or long needle pine litter. Fuels at lower elevations and dry pine sites are drying out quickly and will support fire spread in the next 24-48 hours. Upper elevations such as the southwestern edge of the fire are holding moisture a bit better and will take an additional day or two to dry out. Some smoke will continue to be visible as fuels smolder in already burned areas, and some fuels could kindle with flame. Activity tends to increase soonest on exposed areas such as ridge tops.

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

Several hotshot crews spiked out in the forest last night. Today, crews will work toward completing the direct and indirect lines on the Falls Creek Ridge. When line construction is complete, crews will be shuttled out by air. Burnout operations will not happen immediately; firefighters will wait out the potential upcoming red flag conditions before conducting burnout operations in Division D. As crews move toward completing this project, they will remain in a hold and patrol status until weather and fire behavior help determine timing of further operations.

*Branch III (Divisions X, Y and Z):* Crews will continue to clean up previously cut logs in Division X, and firefighters are looking for rehabilitation opportunities in Divisions Y and Z (as well as in Division A).

*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](http://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](http://www.co.laplata.co.us). La Plata County's 416 Fire Interactive Map is at <https://bit.ly/416fire>. Here, you can pinpoint whether you are in an evacuation or pre-evacuation zone, as well as your proximity to the fire's perimeter.

*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:** 34,161 acres

**Total Personnel:** 847

**Resources Include:** 10 Type 1 hand crews, 8 Type 2 hand crews, 24 engines, 10 dozers, 2 water tenders

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

**Start Date:** June 1, 2018

**Percent Contained:** 35

**Cause:** Under Investigation