

# 416 Fire Update



## Fire Statistics:

**Location:** 13 miles north of Durango, CO

**Size:** 34,962 acres (584 acres growth)

**Total Personnel:** 475

**Resources Include:** 5 Type 1 hand crews, 5 Type 2 hand crews, 16 engines, 5 dozers, 1 water tenders

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

**Start Date:** June 1, 2018

**Percent Contained:** 37

**Cause:** Under Investigation

## June 25, 2018 (8 a.m.)

**Special notes:** Today, a Burned Area Emergency Response team (BAER) will hold its initial meeting to prepare for action. Assessments and subsequent implementations will be coordinated with the state, county and city.

As a reminder, drones cause danger to aircraft and they are not allowed in the fire perimeter. Residents are encouraged to please report any drone activity to local law enforcement.

**Weather:** Fire weather conditions will remain near critical again today. Warm temperatures (77°-83°), low humidity values (13-16%), and poor overnight humidity recoveries are expected to continue. Yesterday, winds encouraged fire growth as they gusted to 40 mph in some areas. Winds will diminish slightly today, coming from the west-northwest at 6-10 mph with gusts to 20 mph. This slight decrease in winds is enough to keep the area out of Red Flag conditions today.

**Current Situation:** The fire grew 584 acres overnight. It has been seven days since the fire has had precipitation. Fuels continue to dry and will react to small environmental changes (wind speed, wind direction, or humidity). When weather conditions, susceptible fuel, and topographical conditions align, fire behavior has potential for rapid and intense increase.

Yesterday in *Division H*, two smoke columns were visible - one from Clear Creek and one from Hope and Deer Creek areas. Westerly winds sent significant amounts of smoke down the Hermosa drainage into Hermosa and Honeyville. Fire behavior is expected to increase in both of these locations today, becoming most active after 1 p.m. **There will be visible smoke with this increased activity.** Hotshot crews are present and monitoring near the indirect fireline. As the fire creeps toward the area of Junction Creek Rd, fire managers are assessing the need for future burnout operations on the west side.

The 416 Fire is an evolving fire. Much patience is required during monitoring, operational planning, and tactical decisions in order to keep firefighters safe in terrain that is steep, rugged, and often inaccessible. While complete suppression is the ultimate goal, it is not an immediately obtainable one. Fire managers wish residents to know that the fire is *not* out, and it *will not be out* until the arrival of significant moisture. Currently, however, the fire is behaving in a predictable way, allowing managers to observe and plan intentionally. Correct action at this time involves using the right resources, in the right places, at the right times. Residents are not currently under threat, and often the visible aspects of the fire appear more threatening and ominous than they actually are. For example, flames that were present during the daytime become more visible at night. Smoke columns on the west side may become quite large, but they are farther from US 550 and structures than they appear.

In the past few weeks, there were significant amounts of mitigation performed on roads and around houses, leaving many slash piles as a result. Crews have worked for many days to chip these slash collections. As crews go home and new crews arrive, every effort is made to communicate all locations of slash piles. There may, however, still be piles in need of chipping, and residents should know that crews are working to locate and chip all piles.

**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.**

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](mailto:2018_cosjf_416@firenet.gov)