

June 20, 2018 - 416 - Evening Fire Update

416 Fire Wildfire

News – 2 days ago

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://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5822>

Email: 2018_cosjf_416@firenet.gov

June 20, 2018 (8 p.m.)

Special notes:

The Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team will reach the end of their 14 day assignment on the 416 Fire Thursday evening. A National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) team from Portland, OR will transition with the Rocky Mountain Team on Thursday and assume management of the 416 Fire on Friday morning. The NIMO team will continue to supervise over 600 firefighters currently working on the fire. A NIMO team is structured to manage long duration fires, which will be ideal for managing fire in the remote country on the western side of the 416 Fire. That area has few values at risk and will continue to hold fire until sustained precipitation occurs.

Weather: A strong warming and drying trend continued today and will persist into the weekend. Fuels remain dry and the area remains in drought conditions. Temperatures on Thursday will rise to the mid-80s, and relative humidity values may be as low as 10%. Winds will be from the west-northwest between 8-12 mph with gusts up to 25 mph. Atmospheric conditions will remain unstable with a Haines Index of 6. By Friday, a Red Flag Warning is likely.

Current Situation: As rising temperatures and decreasing humidity cause surface fuels to reheat, fire behavior will continue to increase throughout the week. The west side of the fire is most likely to see fire spread first. *Residents should be aware that smoke will be visible as fuels smolder in already burned areas, and some fuels could kindle with visible flame.*

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

Hotshot crews completed the indirect line on the Falls Creek Ridge today. This afternoon, some interior islands (unburned areas in the black) and small areas near the direct fireline developed hotspots. Smoke was visible from below. Three helicopters dropped water on these spots, and a squad of hotshots worked with hand tools to mitigate this area. Crews will hold and patrol through this increase in fire behavior before continuing improvements on the firelines.

Branch III (Divisions X, Y and Z): In Division X, firefighters continued to clean up previously cut logs, and chipping operations took place in Divisions Y and Z. Crews continue to remove unneeded equipment and rehabilitate these areas.

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

Tomorrow at 6 a.m., command of the Burro Fire will transfer to a Type 3 team under the 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: 34,177 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: Two Type 1 (including the Blackhawk), two Type 2, and one Type 3, (as well as two fixed wing aircraft)