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

June 16, 2018 (8:00 a.m.)

Special notes:
There is a Flash Flood Watch in place today from 9 a.m. until midnight, with rain accumulations up to three-quarters of an inch. 416 Fire leadership is coordinating closely with La Plata County Emergency Services to monitor and plan for this possible situation. Hermosa Creek and Tripp Gulch are particularly susceptible drainages; when an area has burned, soil becomes hydrophobic, or water resistant, which causes water to rush over soil instead of soak in. Significant amounts of rainfall in short time spans contribute to this situation. Emergency managers have developed a specific flood response plan, and a flood support group has been established by the fire team to support emergency management officials if requested. Specialized water rescue teams are already in place should the need arise. Meteorologists from the 416 Fire will constantly monitor weather changes to provide advance notice of any developments. Residents may see more emergency service personnel moving into the area to prepare for any adverse weather events.

Weather: Overnight rain near the 416 Fire was 0.11" in the high country. This did not significantly affect fire behavior. Relative humidity recovery, however, was significant, and this will contribute to a less active fire day, with a Haines index of 3 (low potential for large plume dominated fire growth). Humidity levels today are 50-60% minimum, and temperatures are from the mid-50s to mid-60s. Wetting rains are 90% likely as moisture from the remnants of Hurricane Bud work northward across Southwest Colorado. Showers will continue through Sunday afternoon. Winds are 4-8 mph with occasional gusts up to 20 mph.

Current Situation: Overnight, fire behavior remained calm. Early today, fire behavior and progress will remain significantly moderated, with fire spreading mainly in surface fuels and very dry, heavy fuels. Fire spread may increase slightly in the afternoon if humidity drops, temperatures rise, or ridge top winds increase. Overall, fire activity is expected to be minimal today.

Branch I (Divisions H, D, A, E, F, and G): The plan to hold the fire on the ridgeline continues today in Divisions H and D, west of Hermosa. Fire managers will re-assess after the changing weather conditions. Preparation work in this area has been very successful. Patience and observation are key in the coming days, as crews wait for the most opportune window to act on further plans for burnout or direct attack. Structure protection remains active in areas below the fire.

Alternate lines are progressing westward from the Animas Lookout area in Divisions E and F. Crews are scouting Divisions F and G by air and ground, looking for places to bring the line further west and north with the intention of protecting Lightner Creek from fire spread.

In Division A, crews have accomplished more containment on the southeast side of the fire perimeter, above the area of Mead and Albrecht lanes.

Branch III (Divisions X, Y and Z): Yesterday, more parts of Division Z and Y were re-populated by formerly evacuated residents. Most of the fire perimeter is contained in Division Z, and crews are working on rehabbing this area. At the junction of Divisions Z and Y, helicopters monitor and cool the fire on cliffs south of Electra Lake Rd. Division Y crews are removing unneeded equipment in some areas. In Division X, the fireline from the 578 road now reaches to Grayrock Peak, and crews will improve it today.

Division II (Burro Fire): The Burro Fire is producing a separate update. See: *https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5834/*

Closures and Public Safety: U.S. Highway 550 will be open to escorted traffic from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. from mile marker 39.5 to 49.5. For up to date information on road closures visit www.cotrip.org. Evacuation statuses may change and evolve. For up to date information, please contact the La Plata County Emergency Operations Center at 970-385-8700 or visit www.co.laplata.co.us.

Smoke and smoke particulate are respiratory irritants. Air quality advisories can be found at http://sjbpublichealth.org/416-fire-updates/.

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: 32,959 acres
Percent Contained: 20
Total Personnel: 1,124
Cause: Under Investigation
Resources Include: 11 Type 1 hand crews, 14 Type 2 hand crews, 55 engines, 9 dozers, 5 water tenders
Helicopters: Four Type 1, two Type 2, and two Type 3