

June 29, 2018- 416 Fire Morning Update

416 Fire Wildfire

News – 38 min. ago

416 Fire Morning Update

Friday, June 29, 2018

Location: 13 Miles N. of Durango, CO

Size: 41,617 (growth of 4,129 acres)

Percent Contained: 37%

Start Date: June, 1, 2018.

Cause: Under Investigation

Cost to Date: \$25,600,000

Total Personnel: 357

Resources Include: 2 Type 1 hand crews, 4 Type 2 hand crews, 15 engines, 2 dozers

Helicopters: Two Type 1, one Type 2, and one Type 3

Weather:

An increase in fire activity is anticipated in the northwest perimeter of the Deer Creek drainage. Hot and dry weather, winds out of the southwest and changing wind patterns are forecasted for the day. Wind gusts up to 30 mph are predicted. The fire is expected to continue a moderate rate of spread which may cause smoke to be visible from communities north along the Highway 550 corridor. Although temperatures will decrease slightly, fire weather remains near critical as high temperatures, low relative humidity, strong southwestern winds and a strong high pressure cell warrant the issuance of another Red Flag Warning. Red Flag Warnings are issued to alert firefighters that the existing conditions have potential for dangerous fire growth. The combination of these factors may lead to an increase in fire activity and moderate fire spread throughout the fire area.

Current Situation:

Fire continues to move toward the north. Crews will continue to reduce the potential for future ignitions on the north and east perimeter. Fire crews and track vehicle chippers will stay in the area to continue clearing and chipping brush piles along the Durango-Silverton Railway train tracks. For the removal of slash piles resulting from earlier structure protection operations in the Falls Creek area, residents can call the Incident Command Post at (907) 403-5326.

Since commencing approximately 36 hours ago, crews continue burnout operations in the southwestern portion of the fire in the No Buck Creek drainage. Today in Division H, firing operations will proceed to advance north along Forest Road 171 toward the end of the road where it meets Sheep Head Basin. Crews will remain holding the containment

line by strengthening handline and actively engaging in mop up procedures with aerial support from water dropping helicopters.

Additionally, the fire continues to be most active along the west flank near the Hermosa Creek and Deer Creek drainages. The large fire growth from the Hermosa Creek Wilderness will be routinely monitored by air resources. Using the dip sites along Highway 550, air operations will continue to work the fire all day as they drop water on hot spots within the fire perimeter. Fire operations, especially involving aircraft, can be fascinating to watch but dangerous. Stopping along Highway 550 to view dipping operations is not allowed due to the safety concerns from overhead aircraft.

A closure order in the fire area remains in effect; therefore, accessing trails that tie into the Colorado Trail off of Highway 550 from the Molas Trailhead south to the Junction Creek Trailhead are prohibited. Residents and visitors are encourage to check local conditions when planning recreation activities. For those that would like more information on the 416 fire, starting today two information stations will be staffed from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Done Deal Thrift Store shopping center on at 3101 Main Avenue and at the City Market off of 9th Street and Camino del Rio in Durango.

Closures and Public Safety: For up to date information visit www.cotrip.org. La Plata County's 416 Fire Interactive Map is at <https://bit.ly/416fire>.

National Incident Management Organization - Joe Reinarz, Incident Commander
Information Center: 970-403-5326 from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m daily.

Website for 416 Fire: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5822>

Email: 2018_cosjf_416@firenet.gov