

June 27, 2018- Evening 416 Fire Update

416 Fire Wildfire

News – 11 hrs. ago

416 Fire Evening Update

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Location: 13 Miles N. of Durango, CO

Size: 36,000 acres

Percent Contained: 37%

Start Date: June, 1, 2018.

Cause: Under Investigation

Type 1 Hand Crews

Type 2 Hand Crews

Engines

Type 1 Helicopters

Type 2 Helicopters

Type 3 Helicopters

Dozers

Total Personnel

2

4

15

1

1

1

1

351

Weather: Weather over the fire area today continued to be hot and dry as temperatures hovered in the mid nineties with relative humidity nearing single digits. The increase in temperatures and decrease in humidity allowed the fire to grow to the north into steep

and inaccessible terrain in the Hermosa Creek Wilderness. The fire weather proved advantageous to fire managers on the western portion of the fire in Division H, as they continue to utilize both ground and aerial firing operations to remove the fuels from the handline to the existing fire edge, securing portions of Forest Road 171. Wednesday night recovery will be minimal with lows in the fifties with very little change in relative humidity. Poor recovery overnight will increase the potential for fire growth throughout the fire area over the next 24 hours.

Incident meteorologists have forecasted a Red Flag Warning over the fire area on Thursday due to an increase in daytime temperatures, strong southwest winds and a reduction of relative humidity associated with an approaching high pressure cell to the East. With the forecasted weather, the local communities may continue to see an increase in fire activity to the north as the 416 Fire moves within the Hermosa Creek Wilderness and along the south western perimeter of the fire because of firing operations on Division H.

Current Situation: Taking advantage of warmer temperatures and daytime heating, crews and aerial ignitions made excellent progress with their firing operations in Division H on the southwest portion of the fire near Forest Road 171. Firing operations on the ground were supported by water dropping helicopters from the Durango airport. Three type 1 helicopters assisted in cooling the fire line with multiple water drops from Falls Creek Lake during the burning period. By late afternoon and with aviation support, firecrews had successfully completed their firing operations and had connected their hand line to Forest Road 171, safely meeting the day's objectives.

Crews will continue to utilize firing operations over the next few days to enhance and improve the existing fire line along Division H, connecting to the successful fire line constructed today. The public will continue to see an increase in both smoke and aviation resources over the 416 Fire as the multiday firing operation along the Junction Creek drainage continues.

On Division Z, fire crews monitored and patrolled the Highway 550 corridor. Engine crews with chippers continued to work with homeowners with the removal and reduction of vegetation piles created during fire suppression activities between Honeyville and Tamarron along Highway 550. Homeowners that have a vegetation pile that has not yet been chipped by fire crews are encouraged to contact fire personnel working in their area for assistance in pile removal. Additional fire information was distributed along Highway 550 at Honeyville and Needles and at the helicopter dipsite on county road 205 during daytime operations.

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