

# 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](mailto:2018_cosjf_416@firenet.gov)

**June 18, 2018 (8:00 a.m.)**

**Special notes:** Yesterday, evacuated residents and businesses in the Hermosa area returned to homes and businesses.

**Weather:** Warmer and drier conditions begin today. Temperatures will be mid to upper 70s with minimum humidity at 18%. Winds will be 4-8 mph with gusts up to 22 mph. This warming, drying trend will continue through the week with relative humidity values moving into the lower teens by Thursday. Isolated thunderstorms will return on Thursday.

**Current Situation:** Fire behavior will remain limited today with minimal to no growth. Much of the fire is now in a state of smoldering and creeping, and active flames have been infrequent. Today, however, starts a weather trend that will quickly dry out fuels and re-elevate fire potential as the week goes on. Activity tends to increase soonest on exposed areas such as ridge tops. While the threat to people and values has been significantly reduced, it is important to remember that the fire is not yet "out." The San Juan Forest is still in an exceptional drought, with an overall deficit of approximately 5" of rain. The fire will not likely be fully cold until the arrival of monsoons.

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

Weather and conditions did not allow eight out of the nine hotshot crews to get to the Falls Creek ridge yesterday. Today, two hotshot crews will be flown onto the ridge where they will construct direct line at the south edge of the fire, wrapping around to the northwest, and two more crews will hike in to that area to also construct direct line. As roads dry out, four more hotshot crews will hike up and join the crew already working on indirect line off the Junction Creek Rd, for a total of five crews working there. Crews will continue to assess protection needs for the structures at the end of Junction Creek Rd. There will be nearly 200 firefighters working on the ridge. While the risk of fire itself has decreased, these crews will still face considerably challenging conditions. A National Guard Blackhawk Helicopter with medivac capabilities stands by in case of medical emergencies.

Crews in Divisions E and F will continue to improve alternate, indirect firelines toward Junction Creek.

*Branch III (Divisions X, Y and Z):* Crews are backhauling equipment, monitoring the fire line, and starting to identify rehabilitation opportunities in these areas (as well as in Division A).

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

**Closures and Public Safety:** U.S. Highway 550 is open without an escort. For up to date information visit [www.cotrip.org](http://www.cotrip.org). For evacuation statuses, please contact the La Plata County Emergency Operations Center at 970-385-8700 or visit [www.co.laplata.co.us](http://www.co.laplata.co.us). La Plata County's 416 Fire Interactive Map is at <https://bit.ly/416fire>. Here, you can pinpoint whether you are in an evacuation or pre-evacuation zone, as well as your proximity to the fire's perimeter.

*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

**Size:** 34,161 acres

**Total Personnel:** 1,087

**Resources Include:** 11 Type 1 hand crews, 13 Type 2 hand crews, 53 engines, 13 dozers, 5 water tenders

**Helicopters:** Three Type 1 (including Blackhawk), two Type 2, and two Type 3, (as well as two fixed wing aircraft)

**Start Date:** June 1, 2018

**Percent Contained:** 30

**Cause:** Under Investigation