

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 17, 2018 (8:00 a.m.)

Special notes: The National Weather Service has issued A FLASH FLOOD WARNING that remains in effect until 9 a.m. The 416 Fire team and flood support group is poised to support emergency management officials if requested.

Today at 8 a.m., evacuated residents and businesses (east and west sides of US 550) from Glacier Club to Needles can return to their homes and businesses. US 550 will be open without an escort beginning at 8 a.m.

Weather:

Scattered showers will continue today until the afternoon. Skies will be cloudy with some patches of fog. The chance of wetting rain is 50%. Temperatures are lows of 38-46 and highs of 64-70. Relative humidity lows are 40% and highs are 80%. Winds 2-8 mph with occasional gusts to 18 mph. Conditions will quickly dry out tonight and Monday. Dry weather is expected for much of the week, with above normal temperatures and low afternoon humidity.

Current Situation:

In some areas, the fire received over ¼” of rain within an hour this morning.

Fire behavior will still be limited on the 416 Fire today. There should be little to no growth. Some heavy fuels may continue to burn. The chance of ignition is minimal.

Branch I (Divisions H, D, A, E, F, and G): Yesterday, fire leadership and field experts convened to discuss strategic planning and tactics. They conducted a deliberate risk assessment regarding the next steps in operational tactics. The recent shift in fire behavior (due to moisture) provides an opportunity for a direct attack to secure the fire on Falls Creek Ridge. (“Direct” means line is constructed right at the fire’s edge as opposed to away from the edge.) Today, 9 interagency hotshot crews will either hike in or be flown in by helicopter to work in Division D. Some crews will construct direct fireline from Falls Creek Subdivision west along the fire’s edge, wrapping around to the southwest, north of Tripp Gulch. Other crews will build indirect line that runs northeast from the southwest edge of the fire, tying into the north end of Junction Creek Rd (171). When line is complete and when conditions are favorable, crews will conduct burning operations in this corner behind the indirect line to secure the rest of the south perimeter. Some crews will stay spiked out near Junction Creek road in order to maximize daylight/working hours. These crews will be logistically supported by sling loads from helicopters – supplying food, water, and supplies. While steep terrain and wet conditions remain a challenge to firefighters, the change in fire behavior and spread decreases the risk of fire itself. This tactic now presents acceptable risk and acceptable exposure to the firefighters and pilots. Structure protection crews will remain active in the Hermosa and Falls Creek Subdivision areas, and crews in Division A will be monitoring the fires edge.

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

Branch III (Divisions X, Y and Z): Crews in these divisions will continue to patrol, monitor, and backhaul unused equipment and continue to improve the fireline from 578 to Grayrock Peak.

Division II (Burro Fire): The Burro Fire received over 7/10” of rain. 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 without an escort as of 8 a.m. today. For up to date information 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. La Plata County’s 416 Fire Interactive Map can be found 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: 1,111

Resources Include: 11 Type 1 hand crews, 13 Type 2 hand crews, 56 engines, 12 dozers, 5 water tenders

Helicopters: Five Type 1, two Type 2, and two Type 3, two fixed wing

Start Date: June 1, 2018

Percent Contained: 25

Cause: Under Investigation