

July 02, 2018 Daily Update

416 Fire Wildfire

Announcements – 3 hrs. ago

416 Fire Morning Update

Monday, July 02, 2018

Joe Reinarz, Incident Commander

Location: 13 Miles N. of Durango, CO

Size: 51,068 (growth of 1,767 acres)

Percent Contained: 37%

Start Date: June, 1, 2018.

Cause: Under Investigation

Cost to Date: \$27,000,000

Total Personnel: 363

A dense smoke advisory remains in effect until 10:00 am this morning. Although Animas Valley communities continue to be impacted by heavy smoke, recent cooler weather has resulted in favorable firefighting conditions. Dry, isolated thunderstorms are predicted for Tuesday but are expected to remain to the north and east of the fire. Firefighters will remain aware of the changing conditions caused by outflow winds from these thunderstorms and remain ready to reassess firefighting strategies as needed. Humidity is predicted to increase throughout the week resulting in cooler temperatures and decreased fire behavior.

Yesterday, weather patterns allowed for significant progress and the conclusion of burnout operations on the southwest perimeter of Division H. Crews will remain holding and monitoring the fireline west of Forest Road 171 to Sheep Head Basin, just southeast of the wilderness. Helicopters will continue to help hold that line with water drops and may be visible from Highway 550.

Conclusion of the burnout operations has allowed resources to be reassigned to the northern perimeter of the fire in Division X and the increasing numbers will focus on strengthening existing fire lines and prepare for possible future burnout operations surrounding Purgatory Ski Resort. In the days ahead, smoke is expected to continue impacting surrounding communities although the cooler weather should reduce fire activity and smoke a bit. .

A closure on La Plata County Road 124 from the junction of County Road 124A will be implemented today, restricting access to Kennebec Pass Trailhead located in the fire area closure area. Accessing trails and roads that connect to the closure order area are being patrolled by law enforcement agencies. As Purgatory Ski Resort is scheduled to open today, residents and visitors are encouraged to check local conditions when planning recreation activities around the fire area. An area closure order and fire ban remain in effect to ensure both public and firefighter safety.

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

Information Center: 970-403-5326 from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m daily.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/416Fire/>

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

Email: 2018_cosjf_416@firenet.gov