

June 26, 2018- 416 Fire Update

416 Fire Wildfire
News – 4 hrs. ago

416 Fire Morning Update

Fire Statistics:

Location: 13 miles north of Durango, CO

Start Date: June 1, 2018

Size: 35,195 acres (234 acres growth)

Percent Contained: 36

Total Personnel: 459

Cause: Under Investigation

Resources Include: 5 Type 1 hand crews, 5 Type 2 hand crews, 15 engines, 5 dozers, 1 water tender.

Helicopters: One Type 1, one Type 2, and one Type 3, and one fixed wing aircraft.

June 26, 2018 (8 a.m.)

Weather: Continued hot and dry conditions will persist throughout the day over the entire fire area. The potential for an increase in fire activity is likely today due to a forecasted rise in daytime temperatures, decreased relative humidity and accompanying daytime winds. The increased fire activity and downslope winds in the morning will increase the chance of smoke dispersal along Highway 550 and may have an impact to the communities and public along the highway corridor. Temperature recovery overnight will be minimal with predicted lows in the fifties, while the pattern of strong downslope winds will continue throughout the night.

Current Situation: Today, firefighters will take advantage of the increase in temperatures, lower relative humidity and local geography to secure and improve existing fire line while conducting burnout operations along the Junction Creek (FR 171) corridor. Firefighters will utilize offensive suppression tactics to remove fuels in order to slow and control the advancing fire front along the southwestern fire perimeter on Division H above the Junction Creek road system. Firefighters will utilize forest road 171 as the primary fireline during firing operations. The introduction of fire by the hotshots crews and aerial resources along the southwest perimeter will aid in the removal of the ground fuels which will allow fire managers the opportunity to slow the progress of the fire to the southwest while meeting the incident objectives.

With burnout operations planned during the operational window today, the public will see an increase in smoke and ash in communities near the fire area. Residents along the Fall Creek and Junction Creek corridors will see the greatest impact of smoke as firefighters will be utilizing the Junction Creek road as a geographic barrier for firing operations. With the use of aerial resources to support firefighters on the ground, the

public will also see an increase in aviation resources throughout the day. Helicopters will continue to utilize the water dipping site along county road 205, approximately 5 miles north of Chapman Lake. The public is encouraged to limit access to this area during aerial operations to minimize the impact to mission objectives and firefighter support the aerial resources provide.

Fire crews will also continue to be visible along the Highway 550 corridor. Crews in that area will continue to improve and secure the existing fireline while aiding the community with fuel reduction near residences. Crews will continue to chip vegetation piles created during fire suppression activities in that area during the onset of the incident. The public is encouraged to contact firecrews working in their area if vegetation piles have not been addressed and removed. Additional fire information may be obtained along Highway 550 at Honeyville and Needles 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

Hours of operation: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

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

Email: 2018_cosjf_416@firenet.gov