

July 4, 2018 Daily Update

416 Fire Wildfire

News – 49 min. ago

416 Fire Morning Update

Wednesday, July 04, 2018

Joe Reinarz, Incident Commander

Downloadable pdf version available at <http://bit.ly/0704DailyUpdate>

Location: 13 Miles N. of Durango, CO

Size: 53,260 acres (growth of 482 acres)

Percent Contained: 37%

Start Date: June, 1, 2018.

Cause: Under Investigation

Cost to Date: \$28,300,000

Total Personnel: 459

As fire behavior calmed across the 416 Fire, the retrieval and removal of water handling equipment from the south end of the fire went well and should be completed today. Preparations are also underway to remove an extensive network of pumps, hoses and portable water tanks from the protection lines around Purgatory Ski Resort on the fire's north end. This work must be accomplished before roads in the area are softened by predicted rains. Resources are being released from the 416 fire to be re-mobilized to other higher priority fires in the region where life and property are more directly threatened.

Yesterday, fire behavior and spread were low to moderate. There was only limited growth on south-facing slopes, primarily in dead and decadent aspen stands. Fire spread was limited to ground fuels, with very limited torching of trees. This decreased fire behavior is expected to continue today.

There is an increasing chance of thunderstorms and dry lightning today, to a greater extent than seen yesterday. Thunderstorms also bring the threat of brief, strong and erratic winds that can be dangerous to firefighters. The wind is not expected to radically influence fire behavior because of the increasingly wet forest fuels. By Friday, it is forecast that a significant wetting rain will begin. The probability of rain increases through the weekend, with amounts ranging from .10 to .25 inches expected daily. Smoke impacts to surrounding communities should diminish rapidly with very reduced fire spread.

La Plata county has rescinded the pre evacuation orders for residences Monday, July 2. No subdivisions along the highway corridor are under pre evacuation status.

Because 4th of July serves as a popular holiday to engage in recreational activities, residents and visitors are encouraged to check local conditions when planning recreation activities around the fire area. The La Plata County Road 124 from the junction of County Road 124A remains closed. Accessing trails and roads that connect to the San Juan National Forest closure order area are being patrolled by law enforcement agencies. Although a restricted portion of Purgatory Ski Resort is opened, area closures and a fire ban remain in effect to ensure both public and firefighter safety.

Fireworks are prohibited on national forest and county lands.

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