

# 416 Fire Morning Update



## Fire Statistics:

**Location:** 13 miles north of Durango, CO

**Size:** 35,196 acres

**Total Personnel:** 389

**Resources Include:** 4 Type 1 hand crews, 4 Type 2 hand crews, 12 engines, 1 dozer, 1 water tender.

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

**Start Date:** June 1, 2018

**Percent Contained:** 36

**Cause:** Under Investigation

## Wednesday, June 27, 2018 (8 a.m.)

**Weather:** Today the local fire area will once again reach near critical fire weather. Fire meteorologists have forecasted temperatures to increase by 5-8 degrees with high temperatures nearing the low 90 degree mark. With an increase in temperatures, relative humidity in the single digits and the daily wind patterns, the fire area has the potential to see an increase in fire behavior throughout the burning period. Overnight recovery will be minimal with lows in the fifties with very little relative humidity recovery which will increase the potential for fire growth.

Incident meteorologists are forecasting a potential Red Flag Warning over the fire area within the next 24-36 hours because of an increase in daytime temperatures, local winds and reduction of relative humidity. With the forecasted weather, the local communities may see an increase in fire activity to the north as the 416 Fire moves deeper into the Hermosa Creek Wilderness.

**Current Situation:** Hotshot crews were able to work late into the night on Tuesday, successfully meeting objectives with the firing operations along the western edge of the fire in Division H. Crews will continue burnout utilizing the Junction Creek Road (FR 171) as a secure fire line on the western perimeter. This morning, Hotshot crews will continue to introduce fire on the constructed handline south of Buck Creek. The introduction of fire along the constructed handline into the Junction Creek Road will help to slow the spread of the main fire to the west by removing ground fuel from the path of the advancing front. The public should expect to see an increase in both smoke and aviation resources along the western part of fire area as the multi-day firing operation along the Junction Creek drainage continues. In addition to the smoke from firing operations, an increase in smoke will be visible on the northern portion of the fire as the fire advances into the Hermosa Creek Wilderness.

Firing operations on the ground will be assisted from the air by helicopter support throughout the day. Helicopters will continue to support the ground troops with the use of plastic sphere dispensers (PSD), which will introduce ground fire to areas inaccessible to fire crews because of the geographic limitations found on the western edge of the fire. Type 1 helicopters stationed at the Durango airport will also support firefighters today as they use their external buckets to drop water on hotspots along the fire perimeter. The public is encouraged to limit access along the Fall Creek drainage as helicopters will be utilizing the portable dip site north of Turtle Lake on County Road 205 throughout the day.

Today fire crews will also continue to monitor and patrol along the Highway 550 corridor. Engine crews using chippers will work with homeowners to remove and reduce vegetation piles created during fire suppression activities north of Honeyville along Highway 550. If homeowners have a vegetation pile that has not yet been removed by fire crews, they are encouraged to contact fire personnel working in their area for assistance in pile removal. Additional fire information will be distributed along Highway 550 at Honeyville and Needles and at the helicopter dip site on county road 205 during daytime operations.

**Closures and Public Safety:** For up to date information visit [www.cotrip.org](http://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 (QR Code to right) for 416 Fire: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5822>

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