

Beaver Creek Fire

June 24, 2016

Evening Release

Contact: Public Information Office

Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team Blue

Information Line: 307-223-2291

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Hours 8am-8pm



Beaver Creek Fire Remains Active, Structure Protection a Priority

(WALDEN, Colo.) June 24, 2016 - An expected late afternoon thunderstorm blew over the Beaver Creek Fire increasing the visibility of smoke. No rain was received from the storm and the fire remained established in the burn area. Fire crews focused efforts on structure protection and prepping firelines. Helicopters were used on the fire today however the weather prevented airplanes from being utilized. Bulldozers prepared fireline in multiple areas of the fire.

Tonight's temperature will drop to 43-48 F and a mild cold front will arrive temporarily changing wind direction. The front will bring drier air to the area reducing humidity. No precipitation is expected through the weekend.

The fire continues to remain active in the identified burn area with some areas experiencing short crown runs and group torching. The fire is burning primarily in heavy timber with a high percentage of beetle kill, and in some areas of grass and sagebrush. Deputy Incident Commander Rob Powell said "firefighters are doing an excellent job of protecting structures, operating safely and managing risk".

The fire perimeter did not change significantly on today June 24th during day operations. To date, 5482 acres have burned.

The Beaver Creek Fire started last Sunday on the Routt National Forest and is firmly established on Bureau of Land Management's Independence Mountain and private land. This fire continues to be heavily influenced by afternoon thunderstorms and beetle killed trees. Fire location is approximately 15 miles northwest of Walden, Colorado and two miles south of the Colorado/Wyoming state line.

Forty residences or cabins remain at risk. Concerned cabin owners or local residents should contact the Jackson County Sheriff's Department at (970) 723-4242. Structure damage/loss information will be provided by the Sheriff.

Closures are in place for the following areas/recreation sites/roads: Big Creek Lakes Recreation Area (including both upper and lower Big Creek Lake, and Big Creek Lakes Campground), the area east of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness boundary, south of Forest Road 681 and south of Forest Road 80. All of Independence Mountain is closed, Beaver Creek and Seven Lakes Trailheads, County Road 6W, as well as Forest Roads 80 (Hog Park Road), 600, 681, and 689.

The cause of the Beaver Creek Fire remains under investigation, and anyone with information on suspicious activity this past weekend in the Twisty Park area should contact U.S. Forest Service Officer Hannah Nadeau, 307-343-2335. The initial vehicle sought in the investigation has been cleared of suspicion.

Official information on the fire is being disseminated via Inciweb: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4797/>.

Information will also be posted on Twitter at: @FS_MBRTB, hashtag #BeaverCreekFire. Facebook: Beaver Creek Fire

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