

## **Beaver Creek Fire**

**June 25, 2016**

**Morning Release**

Contact: Public Information Office

Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team Blue

**Information Line: 307-223-2291**

**Media Information Line: 307-223-2220**

Hours 8am-8pm



### **Beaver Creek Fire, Small Perimeter Growth, Structure Defense a Priority**

(WALDEN, Colo.) June 25, 2016 - Overnight a thunderstorm passed over the fire but did not produce significant rainfall. Small spot fires in the northwest and southwest part of the fire resulting from changing wind directions were quickly addressed by firefighters. Night shift firefighters focused on structure defense and cooling down hot spots around values at risk often referred to as mopping up.

A mild cold front passed last night bringing drier air to the area, shifting winds from the southwest to the northeast. Temperatures today will be cooler, 68-73 F but humidity will also decrease, ranging from 17-22%. Lower humidity can cause fire activity to increase especially during wind shifts caused by afternoon thunderstorms.

The fire continues to remain active in the identified burn area with some areas experiencing short crown runs and group torching. Smoke becomes more visible when the fire ignites pockets of unburned fuel in areas the flame front has already passed and as the fire reaches new unburned fuels along the perimeter. The fire is burning primarily in heavy timber with a high percentage of beetle kill, and in some areas of grass and sagebrush. Incident Commander Jay Esperance briefed firefighters, "while providing structure defense and building fireline today, refer to the 18 firefighting watch out situations as a tool maintain firefighter and public safety as the top priority." Today firefighters will continue to provide structure defense and scout for and build fireline. Resources assigned to the fire today include 425 firefighters working on engines, bull dozers, water tenders, helicopters, airplanes and hand crews.

Small fire growth occurred on Friday with the acreage increasing to 5,482 acres. The Beaver Creek Fire started last Sunday on the Routt National Forests and is firmly established on U.S Forest Service land, 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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