

Beaver Creek Fire

June 26, 2016

Evening 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



Afternoon Fire Activity Increases on Beaver Creek Fire

(WALDEN, Colo.) June 26, 2016 – Fire activity on the Beaver Creek Fire increased with afternoon wind shifts and lower humidity on the west, south, and east sides. Firefighters used helicopters in direct attack to control spot fires. On the west side of the fire a wind shift assisted firefighters by pushing the fire back on itself, burning pockets of unburned fuels. When the fire slowly advanced to the south firefighters actively defended structures. Structure preparation and contingency lines remained a focus of firefighters on the north and northeast sides of the fire. Fire size increased to 5843 acres during today’s operational period.

Continued fire spread is expected tonight as winds flow down valley and down slope. Firefighters continue to defend structures and patrol for embers and hot spots through the night with engines. With the increased fire activity around structures, Safety Officer Trainee Phil Gehardson challenged night operation firefighters to “take it upon yourself to be accountable for your safety while meeting incident objectives.”

Tonight’s temperature 42-47F and light 5 mph northwest winds will influence a strong inversion again tonight, pooling smoke in valleys and low lying areas.

This fire continues to be heavily influenced by weather and beetle killed trees. Fire location is approximately 15 miles northwest of Walden, Colorado and two miles south of the Colorado/Wyoming state line.

The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office announced that two outbuildings have been lost in the fire. An outbuilding is defined as a building separate from the main building, such as a shed. All residential structures within and near the fire perimeter have been saved to date.

For information on the condition of a residence within the evacuation area, please contact the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office at (970) 723-4242. Structure damage/loss information will be provided by the Sheriff. Cabin and residence owners may contact the Sheriff to request a photo of their structure.

Existing evacuation orders remain in place due to the hazardous conditions near the fire perimeter. Forty residences or cabins remain at risk. Structure damage/loss information will continue to be provided by the Sheriff.

Closures remain in place and specific information can be found at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4797/>.

The cause of the Beaver Creek Fire remains under investigation. Anyone with information on suspicious activity should contact U.S. Forest Service Officer Hannah Nadeau, 307-343-2335.

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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