

Beaver Creek Fire

June 30, 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



Rain Over Beaver Creek Fire

(WALDEN, Colo.) June 30, 2016 – Yesterday the Beaver Creek Fire did not burn with the intensity seen in days prior. Helicopters used aerial ignitions midday as ground crews assisted with ignition of unburned fuels to further defend structures. Prior to the rain the fire grew to 13,275 acres.

Rain overnight did not suppress the fire, it temporarily decreased fire intensity. Firefighters expect to see smoldering and creeping fire behavior today. As temperatures rise today, wet vegetation will dry out and become more receptive to embers. Preparations for structure protection in the Wheeler Creek and Parsons Draw areas will continue to be a focus for firefighters in the event the fire moves further east.

Structures in advance of the fire are prepared by removing brush and debris, setting up sprinklers to raise humidity in the area and using a heat radiant reflective wrap around the exterior. When structures are wrapped, a radiant heat reflecting material is attached over vents, around the building facing the direction of the fire and covering areas where heat and embers can be trapped. Each structure is evaluated, treated and continuously patrolled.

The fire continues to burn in the Mount Zirkel Wilderness area. Crews will not directly engage the fire; rather they will closely monitor fire movement and assist Forest Service Staff by informing recreationists of area closures. Crews are actively suppressing the fire outside of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness around the values at risk (structures). Resources are shifted as priorities are completed and new risks are prioritized. If the fire passes outside the boundaries of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness, firefighters will suppress the fire using resources and tactics to minimize firefighter risk with the highest probability of success.

Additional rain is expected today. Temperatures will be cooler, 67-72F with higher humidity, 35-40%. Light north 10 mph winds are expected to change directions and gust to 20 mph in advance of afternoon thunderstorms.

Fire Facts:

Acres Burned: 13,275

Firefighters Assigned: 562

Percent Completion: 5%

Located 15 miles northwest of Walden, CO

Evacuation Orders remain in place.

Information regarding structure damage or loss, call Jackson County Sheriff's Office 970-723-4242

Cause under investigation: information or tips call U.S. Forest Service Officer Hannah Nadeau 307-343-2335

Closures orders for U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands can be found at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4797/>

Information posting: Twitter at: @FS_MBRTB, hashtag #BeaverCreekFire. Facebook: Beaver Creek Fire.

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

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