



# Arapaho Fire

## Fire Information Update

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**Contact: Public Information Office 1-307-298-0556**

### Thursday, July 5, 2012 – 9:00 a.m. MST Fire Status Update

Fire	Acres	% Contained	Total Personnel
Arapaho	93,505	32%	786

#### News & Events for the Arapaho Fire:

- Wetting rains with showers and thunderstorms are expected this afternoon. Rain will moderate fire behavior, particularly in the lighter fuels. The rain will temporarily cool the heavier fuels, but once the warmer weather returns, expect the fire to become active again, particularly on the N flank.
- An Albany County assessment team is making initial property assessments today, where it is safe to do so, in cooperation with fire officials.
- Road closures are being evaluated on a daily basis with county sheriffs and fire wardens, local agencies and fire officials in an effort to provide public access as soon as it is safe to do so
- Thank you for supporting the firefighters with donations. Please do not deliver any donations to the fire camp on Fish Creek Road. To make donations, call 1-307-331-8660 or go to <http://fallenfirefighters.org>

**Arapaho Fire:** Yesterday, aerial resources worked closely with firefighters on the ground to locate and drop water on hot spots across the fire area. A helicopter assigned to the incident removed a repeater from Black Mt and installed a repeater on Laramie Peak to provide better communications as firefighters focus their efforts on the W side of the fire. Firefighters have made good progress on the E side of the fire.

Last night, the fire was active until 3:00 a.m. Firefighters focused on line construction on the SE and N flanks, prepping for burnout and putting out hotspots on the NE corner of the fire.

Today, firefighters will focus on constructing fire line on the S flank, prepping for burnout on the SE flank, mopping up on the SE flank and continuing to provide structure protection. The north side of the fire will continue to hold considerable heat despite the rain, due to dense tree canopy and heavy, downed woody material, creating an ongoing challenge for the firefighters.

#### Road Closures:

- Horseshoe Creek Road at Albany and Platte County Line
- Harris Park Road closed at Esterbrook Campground and Fish Creek Road
- Fletcher Park Road at Fish Creek Road
- Van Ortwick Hill Road closed at Fletcher Park Road
- Cottonwood Park Road closed at Palmer Canyon Road
- Garrett Road closed at Palmer Canyon Road and Fetterman Road (County Rd 61)
- Esterbrook Road closed at Fetterman Road and Braae Road

#### Open Roads:

- Fletcher Park Road to the intersection with Fish Creek Road.

#### Closed Roads:

- Fletcher Park Road from the Fish Creek Road intersection to Cottonwood Park Road.
- Fish Creek Road from Harris Park to the Fletcher Park Road intersection.

**Lifted Evacuations:** The Oregon Trail & Laramie Peak Ranch subdivisions.

**Evacuations in Place:** Evacuations remain in place for Cottonwood Park, Friend Park and Harris Park.

**Closures:** All Forest Service lands, recreation sites, roads and trails east of Esterbrook Road. Trails include Laramie Peak Trail (#602); North Laramie River Trail (#625); Friend Park Trail (#609); Harris Park Trail (#616); Roaring Fork Trail (#623); and Laramie Peak Trailhead, North Laramie Trailhead; recreation sites closed include Esterbrook Campground and Friend Park Campground.

**Restrictions:** For current fire restrictions, visit the Wyoming interagency fire restrictions website at [http://www.wy.blm.gov/wy\\_fire\\_restrictions/](http://www.wy.blm.gov/wy_fire_restrictions/)

#### **FIRE FACTS:**

**Arapaho Fire: Started:** June 27, 2012 **Cause:** Under investigation **Location:** 28 miles NW of Wheatland, WY.  
**Resources:** A total of 608 personnel assigned to the fire, including 4 hotshot crews, 13 hand crews, 6 assigned helicopters, 2 fixed wing aircraft, 50 engines, 2 dozers and 8 water tenders.

**SAFETY CONCERNS:** Lightning and wet, slick and potentially impassable, roads.

**RESOURCE CONCERNS:** Invasive species such as dalmation toadflax, cheatgrass and zebra mussel transported on equipment from other locations.

**WEATHER:** The air flow over the region turns more southerly and will remain that way for the next few days. The air mass that is moving northward into this region is very moist with well above normal amounts of moisture. This will bring scattered, widespread showers and thunderstorms each afternoon and evening through Saturday. Wetting rains are possible and some thunderstorms may produce brief heavy rainfall. Dew points across the region will climb into the 50s today, which keeps afternoon humidity well above what has been recently observed. Good overnight recoveries are also expected the next few mornings.

Today's weather is partly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms mainly by the afternoon. Brief heavy rains possible. Temperatures 80 to 85 degrees with minimum RH 30 to 40%. Winds coming out of the S 10-15 mph with gusty winds near thunderstorms. Ridge line winds S 10 to 15 mph with gusts to 20 mph. Strong, gusty winds near thunderstorms.

Outlook for tonight cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Locally heavy rains possible with temps 60 to 65 degrees. Good RH recovery 60 to 70%. Winds shifting NW 10 to 20 mph then decreasing overnight. Chance of wetting rain 70%

Outlook for Friday becoming mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms by the afternoon. Temps 78 to 82 with minimum Rh 30 to 40%. Winds N to NE 5 to 15 mph both ridges valleys. Chance of wetting rain 50% by later afternoon.

**TODAY'S EXPECTED FIRE BEHAVIOR:** Expect a change in the fire behavior for the next couple of days. Higher humidity will lessen the severity of fire behavior but fuels are still very dry and will burn openly. Wind will continue to drive the fire in heavier fuels. The most noticeable effects will be in the grass and brush, due to their quicker response to humidity recoveries. Rain showers will moderate burning conditions.

**COOPERATING AGENCIES & PARTNERS:** Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, the Wyoming State Forestry Division, Platte County, Albany County and Converse County; the Rawlins Field Office of the High Desert District of the Bureau of Land Management.

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