

FACT SHEET

East Fork Fire Ouray Ranger District July 5, 2013 8:00 a.m.



Information Officers: Rick Barton, Steve Stone
Information Center 970-240-5363
Information Center Hours 7am-9pm

Incident: This wildland fire started on 6/15/2013; cause was lightning.
Location: 30 miles southeast of Montrose, CO.
Jurisdiction: Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, & Gunnison National Forests
Cooperating Agencies: BLM, Gunnison County, Montrose County
Incident Commander: Scott Schrenk.

Current Size: 447 acres

Containment: 40%

Management Strategy: Full suppression

Structures Threatened: 20 residences, 15 commercial properties, and 5 outbuildings

Structures Lost: none

Transfer of Command Today:

Effective at 6 am, Friday, July 5, the Northern Rockies Type 2 Incident Management Team handed over suppression efforts on the East Fork Fire to a Type 3 Incident Management Team led by Scott Schrenk. This transition was made due to progress being made toward containing the fire. A Type 3 team is smaller and typically consists of more local firefighting resources.

Status: Fire activity continues to be very light with occasional flare-ups and single tree torching. The most difficult portion of the fire to contain is the extremely steep, rocky hillsides where it is too dangerous to place crews. In addition, there are large amounts of heavy dead/ down fuels that are extremely dry hindering suppression efforts. The high elevation (10,000-11,000 feet) also affects crew endurance and equipment efficiencies.

The Big and Little Cimarron Creek Roads and Road 864 are being heavily used by fire crews to access the fire. Road maintenance will be ongoing with road blading and dust abatement as needed. There is the possibility of livestock being moved along some roads. The public is urged to exercise caution on any of these roads.

A Remote Automatic Weather Station has been installed on the High Mesa to assist in more accurate weather forecasting for firefighters.

Yesterday's Activities: Crews mopped up the large spot fire on the High Mesa and have moved into patrol status around the upper parts of the fire. The inaccessible areas are being monitored by air and any flare-ups attacked with helicopter water drops. Structure protection measures have been completed and crews will continue to monitor the area near the buildings.

Current Resources: Two 20-person crews, 4 engines, 1 dozer, 1 water tender and 2 helicopters. Total personnel: **174**

Today's Activities: Crews will continue to patrol the fire perimeter with the aid of Infrared photography to identify remaining hotspots and extinguish them. Other crews will monitor the structures to ensure their safety. There is the possibility of thunderstorms developing in the fire area today. This brings a slight chance of rain but also lightning.

Restrictions/Closures: The area 'Closure Order' by the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests has been revised effective June 29, 2013. The revision **opens** the Big Cimarron Road #858 to Silver Jack reservoir as far as **the junction** of Big Cimarron Road #863 and Forest Service road #858. It also opens the West Fork Road #860 south of Owl Creek Pass; and Road #868 from the Alpine Guard Station to the Big Blue trailhead #232. All the other prohibited uses of National Forest System lands (Restricted Area), roads and trails that access the East Fork Fire area are still in effect.

A road "Closure Order" for the BLM's adjacent spur roads has been issued. The closures include the High Mesa Road (3001) and spur roads (3001a-i) off that road. It also includes the High Mesa Trail, and the Big Blue Ridge Road (3006) and the spur/branch roads (3006b-c) off that road. Please contact: Gunnison Field Office for more information at 970-642-4940.

The Big Cimarron & Beaver Lake & Silver Jack Campgrounds are OPEN.

On June 24, 2013, the Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest implemented Stage 1 fire restrictions due to high fire danger and ongoing fire activity. The restrictions prohibit open campfires (except in established grates in developed recreation sites), smoking outside (except in a cleared area), chainsaws (except with an approved spark arrestor, shovel and fire extinguisher), and any use of explosives or fireworks on National Forest System lands. In addition, a temporary flight restriction (TFR) is in effect surrounding the East Fork Fire area.

For more on the closures and restrictions please go to the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest website (www.fs.usda.gov/gmug).

The Colorado Trail and the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail are closed from Stoney Pass to San Luis Peak due to fire activity on the Papoose Fire located in Mineral County.

For Wildfire information on how to protect your home and family go to: www.firewise.org

If anyone wants to help or thank firefighters, contributions can be made to: the National Wildland Firefighters Foundation which provides support for the families of injured firefighters:
www.wffoundation.org

For further Fire Information, visit: www.inciweb.org; Select "East Fork Fire"
East Fork Fire email address: coloradoeastforkfire@gmail.com

Or call the Forest fire hotline 970-874-6602.

