6/7/2018, 10:00 am

Summary:
The 416 Fire grew by nearly 1,000 acres and was very active yesterday, especially on the north and south flanks. Warm, dry and windy conditions produced a ten acre spot fire west of highway 550 and east of an existing fireline. Fire crews rapidly responded and contained the fire and will continue to patrol the area today as winds are expected to be strong this afternoon.

The fire moved southwest towards Hermosa Creek and has now reached the Hermosa Campground, at the end of the 201 road. Fire managers believe it will reach residences in the Hermosa area within 12-36 hours. This has prompted county officials to issue a new evacuation order for the Hermosa area effective 6:00 am this morning. Highway 550, on the east side of the fire was also closed this morning until further notice. These evacuations are in place in order to give firefighters more room to safely engage the fire and to ensure the safety of residents should fire behavior change.

A great deal of preparation and hard work has gone into structure protection in the Hermosa area. Firefighters will defend homes by using tactics such as prepositioned sprinkler systems, hose lays, engines, hand crews, backfiring and air support from helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. Resources will be spread throughout the area and prepared to implement these structure protection strategies as the fire progresses towards homes.

As the fire moves slowly to the north, firefighters have scouted ahead of the fire and identified suitable locations to construct firelines to check the growth. Firefighters continue to assess structures and employ mitigation tactics in preparation for the fire’s spread.

Due to its complexity, command of this fire will be transitioned over to the Rocky Mountain Incident Management Type 1 Team effective Saturday, June 9, at 6:00 am. This team brings similar skills as the current Rocky Mountain Type 2 Blue Team and advanced qualifications to manage larger, more complex fires. The teams will work together to ensure a safe and seamless transition.

A community meeting in Silverton yesterday evening was well attended and gave people an opportunity to receive information and ask questions about the fire. Please visit our Facebook page or call our information line for more details.

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Road Closures & Evacuations:
Visit the La Plata County Facebook page or call 970-385-8700 for current information on road closures and evacuations.
San Juan National Forest Alerts & Closures:
Call 970-247-4874 or visit www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/sanjuan/alerts-notices

Fire Size Today:
4,015 acres
Containment:
10%
Firefighters:
617 as of 6/6/2018
Location:
10 miles North of Durango, Colorado
Started:
6/1/2018
Management:
Rocky Mountain Type 2 Blue Team
Emergency Notifications:
Go to La Plata County’s website to sign up for CodeRED emergency alerts. https://tinyurl.com/y74yzwt8

Media:
Call the number below to schedule a tour. Tours will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis and space is limited.