Summary:
The 416 Fire backed down the east side of the ridge above Hermosa today. Multiple large air tankers dropped retardant, slowing the spread and allowing firefighters to effectively protect structures and put further protective measures in place. Areas that were already burned out held securely. No structures have been lost. Tonight, crews will monitor this area and engage fire as needed.

There was heavy smoke on the east side today as firefighters worked close to US 550. As fires burned in this area, crews performed point protection, burning out fuels ahead of the fire, and they successfully protected structures on the west side of US 550. This activity prompted a closure of the highway. Overnight crews will patrol the area, continuing to secure structures and mop up. There are no fires on the east side of US 550.

Resources are successfully keeping pace with fire growth on the north side. Crews are conducting hazardous fuels mitigation near Purgatory Resort while taking care to avoid impact to the ski areas. Dozer lines remain in place south of Purgatory Resort.

The fire crossed the Hermosa Creek today, west of the Lower Hermosa Campground. Crews will monitor this area as safety allows; terrain here is rugged and difficult. Aircraft are the main method of monitoring and suppression in this area.

Tonight’s winds will be more tranquil than previous nights. Relative humidity remains in single digits. There may be dense smoke tonight and tomorrow morning, with fires burning actively into the night.

Saturday will once again bring severe fire weather potential, and the fire will remain active and growing. Incident management remains focused on firefighter and public safety, protecting structures, keeping the fire west of US 550, north of the town of Hermosa, and south of Purgatory Resort.

Tomorrow morning at 6:00am, command of the incident will officially transfer from the Type 2 Rocky Mountain Incident Management Blue Team to the Rocky Mountain Incident Management Type 1 Team. Today, these two teams worked together to ensure a smooth and effective handoff. This will be the final press release from the Type 2 Rocky Mountain Incident Management Blue Team.
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:
7,180 acres
Containment:
10%
Firefighters:
683 as of 6/8/2018 Evening
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.