Summary:
As predicted, the 416 Fire burned actively last night. Firefighters are being challenged by increased fire behavior so efforts are being stepped up to provide protection to homes and other structures. Crews worked overnight, patrolling along Highway 550 and looking for hot spots although none were found outside of the fireline. These efforts are being used to keep the fire from impacting private property and infrastructure as well as to prevent it from crossing the highway. The fire has grown in size to 2,933 acres burned while containment held steady at 10%.

High pressure continues to dominate across the region, bringing with it hotter and drier conditions. Temperatures today will warm to the low 80s with afternoon humidity dropping into the single digits. Additionally, ridgetop winds out of the southwest are forecasted to arrive in the afternoon with gusts up to 20 miles per hour. The extended forecast indicates that above normal temperatures will persist into late week and winds will increase with gusts up to 25 miles per hour. The Severe Fire Weather Potential
Index, a tool used by fire managers for assessing and communicating fire danger, is rated at high and all areas of the fire will see active behavior. Today firefighters will continue to work in the area north of Hermosa and along Highway 550 to accomplish several key tasks. These tasks include removing vegetation around buildings in order to create defensible spaces as well as constructing firelines designed to check the fire if it should move in that direction. Wood chippers are also being brought in to remove piles of vegetation cut and piled by homeowners that might pose a risk to nearby buildings. A task force of fire engines, which is combination of resources assembled for a particular need, is in place to help with this work and to provide point protection of buildings if necessary.

Fire managers may use planned ignitions near the fire’s southern flank. This will be done by using a helicopter to light small fires in front of the main fire’s edge and are designed to create a buffer by removing flammable vegetation. Planned ignitions, also known as burnouts, allow crews to fight the fire on terms that are favorable to firefighters.

Two community meetings will be held this evening. The first one will be at the Animas Valley Elementary School in Hermosa and start at 5 pm. The other one will be at the Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall in Durango and begin at 7 pm. Please visit our Facebook page or call our information line for more details.

******************************************************************************************************

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:
2,933 acres
Containment:
10%
Firefighters:
416 as of 6/4/2018
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.