



Great Basin National Incident Management Team 1

Junkins Fire

October 22, 2016, Update

Fire Size:
17,809 acres

Containment:
39%

Resources:
20 Hand Crews, 4 Single Engine Air Tankers, 2 Heavy Air Tankers, 2 air attack platforms, 6 Helicopters, 33 Engines, 10 Water Tenders

Total Personnel:
722

Location:
11 Miles East of Westcliffe,
Colorado

Started:
10/17/2016 0356 MDT

Cause:
Downed Power Line as a
result of a Wind Event

Management:
Great Basin National Incident
Management Team 1

For more information:

Follow us on Twitter:
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Visit us on Facebook:
[www.facebook.com/JunkinsFire/](#)

See our InciWeb post:
[http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5071/#](#)

Call the Information Line:
719-283-1710

The number of personnel and equipment working to suppress the Junkins Fire has significantly increased. Crews have expanded containment to 39%.

There is a Red Flag Fire Weather Warning in effect today. The forecast calls for clear skies, higher temperatures and increased wind speeds. These conditions may contribute to increased fire behavior, and higher levels of smoke on roadways and in surrounding communities. During the early morning hours an inversion occurs which can push smoke down into the valleys like a thick fog, making driving especially dangerous. Everyone is encouraged to take extra care while driving during periods of reduced visibility. Fire suppression activities attract the attention of drivers. Watch out for vehicles slowing unexpectedly or stopping along the road to watch helicopters and other fire apparatus.

Firefighters continue to use a combination of tactics to contain and suppress the fire.

Along the Hardscrabble Road west of County Road 387, and along Rudolph Mountain working east towards County Road 387 multiple 20-person hand crews will dig fire line and clear vegetation to construct containment line. A bulldozer will be used to cut containment line through heavy vegetation in these areas.

Aviation resources will be utilized in the rugged terrain on the north and southeast portions of the fire. Fixed wing aircraft will be used to apply "lines" of retardant to contain the fire and support ground crews.

Crews on the east and southeast flanks of the fire will work to secure and reinforce the established containment lines. Firefighters will be checking around homes and other structures in the area to ensure that there are no concealed hot spots that might reignite and threaten those structures.

Firefighters working in the Mason Burn Scar and west of County Road 387 will build direct containment line where possible. Additional containment line will be constructed along the southern edge of the fire from Highway 165 along the Left Hand Fork Trail to tie in with containment line constructed along Ditch Creek.

Helicopters will be supporting firefighters on the ground by dropping water in areas where fire is most active. Firefighters will also conduct burn out operations to remove vegetation on the perimeter of the fire, thereby creating an area along the edge of the fire where no vegetation remains. This denies the fire the fuel it would need to advance.

Firefighters will continue to staff night operations to monitor the fire perimeter and protect structures.

