



Great Basin National Incident Management Team 1

Junkins Fire

October 26, 2016, Update

Fire Size:
17,675 acres

Containment:
70%

Resources:
25 Hand Crews
4 Single Engine Air Tankers
2 air attack platforms
6 Helicopters
29 Engines
13 Water Tenders

Total Personnel:
844

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:
@JunkinsFire

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

Fire crews continue to make progress in containment and suppression of the Junkins Fire. At the end of the operational period, Tuesday, October 25, 2016, containment had risen to 70%.

Crews are now "ground truthing" the fire perimeter. As firefighters work along the perimeter extinguishing hot spots and improving containment line, they are also collecting GPS data, which in turn is handed off to the fire mapping team. As a result of more accurate data, the acreage of the fire has been recalculated and is now at 17,675 acres, 457 acres less than previously estimated using only aerial data for mapping.

Hand crews are working to complete a major indirect fire containment line running along the ridge of North Hardscrabble Creek. This line will connect the two most northern points of the perimeter and will serve as a defensive line should the fire advance toward Highway 96. Much of the fire perimeter is currently surrounded by containment line. Multiple hand crews are working diligently to construct line to complete containment.

Firefighters along on the western flank of the fire have begun suppression repair work. Once the fire is fully contained and no longer poses any threat of escaping containment, crews begin the process of repairing the damage that may have resulted from fire suppression operations. Where bulldozers were used to clear wide paths along the fire's perimeter, the soil will be smoothed, and plant material will be distributed to help facilitate new growth. A similar process will be employed to repair line that was dug by hand. Incident Commander Trainee Marty Adell said, "While the fire may leave a lasting mark upon the landscape, our fire suppression operations should not. Wildland fire rehabilitation is the process of erasing our mark, time and natural processes will erase the fire's mark."

While the Junkins Fire is substantially contained, there are locations within the fire area that are still smoldering. These "hot spots" in the interior will continue to put up smoke. On especially warm and dry days, it is possible that the hot spots could reignite, and flames may be visible. This will continue until the fire is fully extinguished by a major weather event, such as heavy rain or blanketing snow. While hot spots in the interior of the fire area pose no threat to the surrounding communities, they will be an unpleasant reminder of the fury of the Junkins Fire. Firefighters will continue to monitor the fire area until the fire is completely out.

Despite the hardship citizens in the fire area have endured, they exhibit a resilient spirit and strong desire to help others. Donations have poured into local fire departments, churches, and aid centers. In the initial stages of a disaster, donations of food and blankets are needed, however as we move into the recovery stage, this may not be the most efficient way to help. Unneeded food spoils and unused blankets take up storage space. The best way to help your local organizations is to make monetary donations. These funds can be held until a specific need arises and then used to fill that need.

