



Great Basin National Incident Management Team 1

Junkins Fire

Thursday, October 27, 2016, Update

Fire Size:
17,675 acres

Containment:
80%

Resources:
20 Hand Crews
2 Single Engine Air Tankers
2 Air Attack Platforms
5 Helicopters
23 Engines
12 Water Tenders

Total Personnel:
723

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](https://twitter.com/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

Wednesday was another safe and productive day for the men and women serving on the Junkins Fire. Crews continued to extend containment line through the most rugged sections of the fire perimeter and have now achieved 80% containment. While new fire line is being constructed, additional crews are patrolling and strengthening existing containment line and suppressing hot spots.

Burn operations began Wednesday on the west end of the containment line that runs along the ridge above, and to the north of Middle Hardscrabble Creek. The Incident Commander's intent is to create a wide barrier to eliminate the possibility of fire escaping its boundaries and threatening residents and infrastructure along Highway 96. This will be achieved through a two-phase process.

The first phase was the construction of a containment line connecting the two most northern points of the fire boundary. Heavy equipment was used to punch the line through from the east end of the ridge, but when the terrain became too rugged even for a heavy steel tracked bulldozer, hand crews pushed ahead and finished the work, carving containment line up the steep, rugged mountain side.

The second phase of the work is the burn operation. Firefighters using drip-torches will light vegetation along the edge of the containment line. A helicopter equipped with a Plastic Sphere Dispenser (PSD), which fires "ping pong" balls filled with an incendiary material will be used to widen the burn line. This operation is further supported by specially trained firefighters who launch handheld incendiary projectiles into areas where additional firing is required. This operation should be completed by the end of the Friday, October 28, operational period.

Once the fire is fully encircled by containment line, including the North Hardscrabble Creek burn line, it will be considered to be "contained." Then crews will "mop up" the line. Mop up requires firefighters to inspect every section of containment line to ensure no breaches or gaps exist. Crewmembers will stir the ash and seek out concealed hot spots. Miles of fire hose will be extended to deliver water to extinguish any hot spots that are found.

Even after the perimeter has been mopped up and is fully contained, locations within the fire area will still smolder. These "hot spots" deep inside the fire area will continue to put up smoke. On especially warm days, it is possible these 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. These interior hot spots pose minimal threat to the surrounding communities. Firefighters will continue to monitor the fire area until the fire is completely out. The fire will not be officially "out" until it is extinguished by a major weather event, such as heavy rain or blanketing snow.

The Incident Command Team and the Firefighters on the Junkins Fire wish to express their gratitude to the community. Thank you for your patience and confidence. It is an honor and a privilege to serve you.

