



Cameron Peak Fire Update

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

Southwest Area Incident Management Team 3

Dave Gesser, Southwest Area Team 3 Incident Commander

Firefighters Closing Gaps Despite Challenging Conditions

Current Situation: During the past 24 hours, good progress was made on direct fire lines along the Buckhorn Road to Comanche Reservoir, Pingree Park Road, Highway 14 and the section of fire above Highway 14 (the Thumb) despite the rugged terrain and distance required for line construction. Firefighters also continued construction of indirect fire line and structure protection measures near the Crystal Lakes, Red Feather, and Glacier View subdivisions to protect these communities, should the fire move in that direction where there is unburned fuel. Helicopter operations focused on hot spots in the Thumb that was very active and in Rocky Mountain National Park where some flare ups occurred. Fire officials from Estes Park, Glen Haven and surrounding communities met to refine the last several days planning efforts and began developing implementation strategies for work in these areas.

Today, a multipronged approach will continue on the western, northern, and eastern perimeters as fire managers seek to construct a boundary around the fire to box it in. Extra resources will be located along the Buckhorn Road and Comanche Lake section of fire line to prevent perimeter growth from the anticipated northwesterly wind event. Air operations will continue supporting ground crews as needed, focusing on the most active areas of the fire where hot spots have been observed and fire activity is picking up. In the coming days, once firefighters are able to secure existing fire lines and connect them together, containment will increase.

Closures and Evacuations: Today the voluntary evacuation for Glacier View was lifted. There are both mandatory and voluntary evacuations in place throughout the area. For a full list of evacuations and road closures, please visit <https://nocoalert.org> for more information. The Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forest has implemented a closure around the fire; a map of the closure area can be found at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/map6964>. Rocky Mountain National Park has implemented a variety of closures on trails, cross country zones and wilderness campsites in the northern part of Rocky Mountain National Park. Trail Ridge Road (Hwy 34) has reopened and is now open across the park. For more specific information on these closures and a map, visit <https://www.nps.gov/romo/learn/fire-information-and-regulations.htm>

Weather & Fuel Conditions: A high pressure system will remain in place throughout the week and the temperatures will remain in the 70s with humidity in the teens. Tomorrow will bring a change in the winds with gusts from the northwest up to 25 mph. The wind will be a good test of the establish firelines and mop up efforts to see where additional work needs to be completed and what sections of the line are holding. By the weekend a storm system will move in from the south and possibly bringing thunderstorms to the area.

Fire Restrictions: The Canyon Lakes Ranger District is under Stage 2 fire restrictions. Please visit https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd801392.pdf for more information. Rocky Mountain National Park has implemented a complete fire ban and an area closure. For information please see <https://www.nps.gov/romo/learn/fire-information-and-regulations.htm> Larimer County also has a fire ban in place through September 18, 2020. More information is available at <https://tinyurl.com/y332jsoy>. A statewide open fire ban is also in effect for the State of Colorado through October 7.

Temporary Flight Restrictions: A Temporary Flight Restriction is in place over the Cameron Peak Fire. Wildfires are a No Drone Zone. If you fly, we can't. Whenever a drone is spotted near the fire all aircraft are grounded until we can be sure the drone is clear of the area. For more information, visit <http://knowbeforeyoufly.org>.

Cameron Peak Fire Statistics:

Size: 102,596 acres
Containment: 4%
Total Personnel: 1054
Location: 25 mi E of Walden; 15 mi SW of Redfeather Lakes, CO
Reported: August 13
Cause: Under investigation

For More Information:

Information Office: (970) 541-1008, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Media Inquiries: 970-541-0563
Email: 2020.cameronpeak@firenet.gov
InciWeb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6964/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CameronPeakFire>
Interactive StoryMap: <https://arcg.is/1ayXeD0>
Smoke Update: <https://tinyurl.com/y2duao6r>