



Smoke Outlook for 8/20 - 8/21
Western Colorado Pine Gulch Fire
 Issued at: 2020-08-20 09:19 MDT

Special Statement

Those who have or are recovering from COVID-19 should take precautions to avoid exposure to smoke. See the CDC's webpage for more information: https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/covid-19/wildfire_smoke_covid-19.html

WildFire

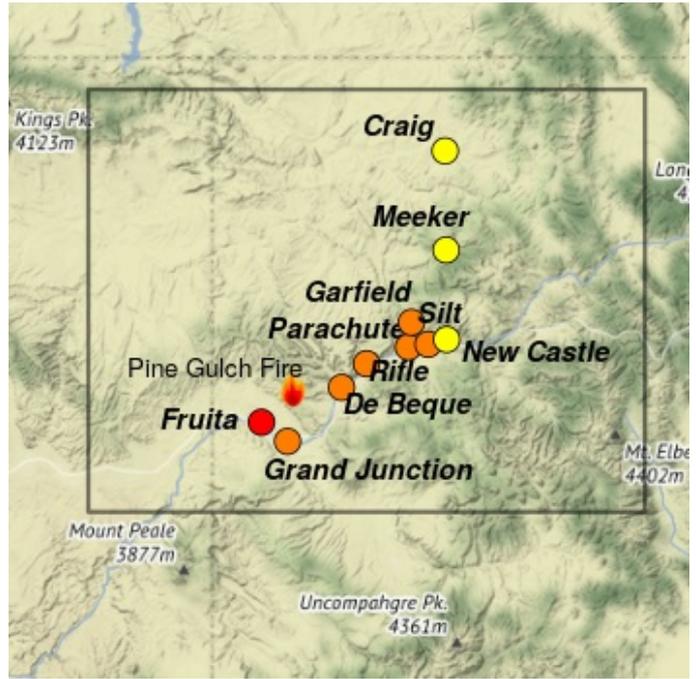
The Pine Gulch wildfire is at approximately 121,781 acres and remains at 7% containment. Firefighters are still witnessing active fire behavior due to historically dry conditions and receptive fuels. Excessive heat warnings continue throughout western Colorado, with a highs near 95 in the Grand Valley. A red flag warning is in effect for gusty winds and possible dry lightning.

Smoke

Areas of haze in the early morning and areas of smoke will continue Thursday morning across portions of central and western Colorado especially in the Grand Valley. Moderate to USG conditions will be present before 11 am. Wind changes and possible thundersorms will bring smoke from the fire into the Grand Valley and along areas of I-70 again Thursday. We will see durations of smoke and periods of unhealthy conditions through communities including Fruita, Loma, Grand Junction, Clifton, and De Beque. Parachute, Rifle, Silt, and New Castle will see good to moderate conditions late into the afternoon and evening.

Air Quality Monitoring

If you notice health effects from smoke, you are encouraged to follow actions to protect yourself listed below. Always remember if you smell smoke you are breathing smoke. Air Quality Health Advisory for wildfire smoke may appear in these areas. Please use caution on roads, highways and Interstates in the areas due to limited visibility.



Daily AQI Forecast* for Aug 20, 2020

Station	Yesterday hourly	Wed 8/19	Forecast* Comment for Today -- Thu, Aug 20	Forecast*	
				Thu 8/20	Fri 8/21
Fruita	No hourly data	●	USG conditions in the morning till midday and Unhealthy in the evening as north winds increase and smoke drains south into Grand Valley *Monitor	●	●
Grand Junction	6a noon 6p No hourly data	●	USG conditions early a.m. with areas of Unhealthy in the evening as northerly winds push smoke into the Grand Junction area.	●	●
De Beque	No hourly data	●	USG early a.m. Unhealthy Conditions possible near drainage's. * Monitor	●	●
Parachute	No hourly data	●	USG Conditions expected Periods of Unhealthy are possible* Monitor	●	●
Rifle	No hourly data	●	USG Conditions expected later in the day as winds shift * Monitor	●	●
Silt	No hourly data	●	Moderate to USG Conditions depending on afternoon winds *Monitor	●	●
New Castle	No hourly data	●	Moderate USG Conditions * Monitor	●	●
Garfield	No hourly data	●	Moderate to USG conditions * Monitor	●	●
Meeker	No hourly data	●	Moderate conditions * Monitor	●	●
Craig	No hourly data	●	Moderate to USG conditions as smoke clears in the afternoon with northerly winds * Monitor	●	●

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Air Quality Index (AQI)	Actions to Protect Yourself
● Good	None
● Moderate	Unusually sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion.
● USG	People within Sensitive Groups* should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.
● Unhealthy	People within Sensitive Groups* should avoid all physical outdoor activity.
● Very Unhealthy	Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
● Hazardous	Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity.

*Disclaimer: This forecast is based on fine particulates only; ozone is not included. Forecasts may be wrong; use at own risk. Use caution as conditions can

change quickly. See your health professional as needed. Smoke sensitive groups should take appropriate precautions.

Additional Links

[Colorado.gov Air Quality](https://www.colorado.gov/airquality/addendum.aspx#smoke) -- <https://www.colorado.gov/airquality/addendum.aspx#smoke>
[InciWeb Incident Information System](https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6906/) -- <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6906/>

[Colorado.gov Air Quality](https://www.colorado.gov/airquality/colorado_summary.aspx) -- https://www.colorado.gov/airquality/colorado_summary.aspx
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Issued by USFS Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program -- www.wildlandfiresmoke.net
Western Colorado Current Outlook -- tools.airfire.org/outlooks/WesternColorado
*Smoke and Health Info -- www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=smoke.index