

Pine Gulch Fire Update

Tuesday, August 4, 2020 – 10:00 am

Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team Black

Troy Hagan, Incident Commander

Information Office: (970) 628 - 0130

Hours of Operation: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Extreme Fire Behavior Pushes Pine Gulch Fire to 3,600 Acres

Current Situation: Extreme fire behavior, driven by dry, hot, and windy weather on Monday pushed the Pine Gulch Fire to 3,600 acres. Containment remained at 5%. Today, warm, dry weather is expected to remain a factor as additional resources begin arriving on the incident. Crews will continue to work to protect structures and other values at risk - including oil and gas drilling pads - in the area near the fire. There is potential for continued extreme fire behavior and movement of the fire to the east/northeast. Crews will continue to search for locations where there is a high probability of success in gaining more containment on the fire while keeping firefighters safe.

Rocky Mountain Type 2 Incident Management Team Black (Team Black) assumed command of the Pine Gulch Fire at 6 a.m. this morning. The team was requested due to increased fire activity, requiring a larger management structure to meet the needs associated with the incident as well as the ability to access a wider variety of resources to support firefighting efforts. Team Black thanks the Upper Colorado River (UCR) Type 3 organization for their work prior to the team's arrival.

Weather & Fuel Conditions: Mostly sunny skies are expected over the fire, with generally light down valley winds of 3 to 6 mph in the morning, shifting to the west and increasing to 6 to 12 mph in the afternoon. Temperatures are expected to be in the mid 80s to 90 on Tuesday with humidity at 8 - 13% with a chance of some isolated thunderstorms. Afternoon storms could cause gusty and erratic winds over the fire that would contribute to erratic fire behavior.

Closures: There is a closure in place on Mesa County Road X 1/2 after High Lonesome Ranch (275 County Road 222) to prevent nonessential traffic from entering the fire area. The presence of non-fire traffic within the area is a distraction and a hazard to firefighters and members of the public. Mesa County Sheriff's deputies will be staffing that road closure.

Fire Restrictions: Fire danger across the region is rated as very high. Both [Mesa County](#) and [Garfield County](#) have Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. BLM lands within the Grand Junction Field Office are also under Stage 1 Restrictions. To learn more about fire restrictions on BLM-managed lands in western Colorado, please visit <https://go.usa.gov/xfVFY>.

Temporary Flight Restrictions: A Temporary Flight Restriction is in place over the Pine Gulch 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. Drones are a real danger to aircraft in the air and firefighters on the ground. For more information, visit <http://knowbeforeyoufly.org>.

Pine Gulch Fire Statistics:

Size: 3,600 acres

Containment: 5%

Total Personnel: 143

Location: Approximately 18 miles north of Grand Junction, CO

Reported: July 31, approximately 5:15 p.m.

Cause: Lightning

For More Information:

Information Office: (970) 628-0130, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Email: 2020.PineGulch@firenet.gov

InciWeb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6906/>

Facebook: [facebook.com/PineGulchFireCO](https://www.facebook.com/PineGulchFireCO)