



# Arapaho Fire

## Fire Information Update

[www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org)    [fs.usda.gov/mbr](http://fs.usda.gov/mbr)    [www.pnw2.com](http://www.pnw2.com)

**Contact: Public Information Office 1-307-298-0566**

### **Sunday, July 1, 2012 – 10:30 p.m. MST Fire Status Update**

Fire	Acres	% Contained	Total Personnel
Arapaho	75,051	5%	575

#### News & Events for the Arapaho Fire:

- Pacific Northwest Team 2 (Mike Morcom) assumed command of the Arapaho Fire at 8:00 p.m. this evening; the Incident Command Post (ICP) is located at the former Cow Camp ICP
- Priorities for management of this fire include the protection of the lives of firefighters, air crews and the public
- Joint effort with county resources to assist with public notifications, evacuations and fire suppression effort
- In addition to the numerous local firefighting resources fighting the Arapaho Fire, additional resources from Oregon, Idaho and Montana are arriving to assist
- The Pike Hotshots, a PatRick contract crew, and a number of engines, including Goshen and Platte Fire Departments, were successful in yesterday evening's burnout operation on the southeast corner of the fire, securing approximately six miles of fire line
- Structure protection is in place around Friend Park and burnouts are taking place around some of the structures in the event of the fire backing down towards the community
- Firefighters created fire line south of Harris Park and connected a piece of line on the eastern flank with an old burn located west of Harris Park. Heavy helicopters assisted with the fire line construction efforts
- A public meeting will be held in Wheatland tomorrow evening. More information will be provided in tomorrow morning's update

**Arapaho Fire:** Compared to the previous two days, fire growth moderated. As of this afternoon, the fire was most active on the north and south ends of the fire. Three heavy helicopters assisted firefighters today; one helicopter was reassigned to assist with the Squirrel Creek Fire in south Albany County. Numerous firefighters and engines spent the day protecting structures in the Harris Park area. The fire has crossed the 671 road south of Friend Camp; firefighters are working to contain this area.

Based on information from maps produced this morning, the fire is estimated to be approximately seven miles south of Esterbrook, 15 miles NW of Wheatland and 30 miles south of Douglas.

Fire crews continue to work on opportunities to build line, however extreme fire activity could delay some opportunities. Operations personnel are using old fire scars to assist in slowing, and in some cases stopping, the fire's progress. Over the next several hours, southwest winds aligning with terrain pose the risk of the fire getting established in the Friend Creek Drainage.

Local Sheriff's Departments and Emergency Management personnel are investigating the damage, however an exact number of structures that have been damaged or destroyed has not been determined.

The Type 1 Incident Management Team (Mike Morcom) assumed management of the Arapaho Fire this evening at 8:00 p.m. The new Incident Command Post will be at the former Cow Camp Incident Command post just west of Wheatland.

**Evacuations:** The Sheriff's office has issued evacuations for Cottonwood Park, Friend Park, North Laramie Trailhead and Harris Park. **The community of Esterbrook is not included in the evacuations at this time.**

**Closures:** All Forest Service lands, recreation sites, roads and trails east of Esterbrook Road. Trails include Laramie Peak Trail (#602); North Laramie River Trail (#625); Friend Park Trail (#609); Harris Park Trail (#616); Roaring Fork Trail (#623); and Laramie Peak Trailhead; recreation sites closed include Esterbrook Campground and Friend Park Campground.

**FIRE FACTS:**

**Arapaho Fire: Started:** June 27, 2012 **Cause:** Under investigation **Location:** 28 miles NW of Wheatland, WY.  
**Resources:** A total of 575 personnel assigned to the fire.

**SAFETY CONCERNS:** Erratic winds associated with changing weather patterns

**RESOURCE CONCERNS:** Invasive species such as dalmation toadflax, cheatgrass and zebra mussel transport on equipment from other locations.

**WEATHER:** A red flag warning is in effect through 9 p.m. with predicted gusty winds and low humidity. Potential for light showers this evening with a slight chance of a thunderstorm. Temps 60 to 65

**TONIGHT'S EXPECTED FIRE BEHAVIOR:** Continued active fire behavior with potential for large growth. Temperatures 60 to 65 on ridges and 55 to 60 in the lower valleys. Maximum relative humidities 30 to 40% on the ridges and midslopes and 35 to 45% in the valley. Winds S to SW 10 to 15 mpg with gusts to 25 mph.

**COOPERATING AGENCIES & PARTNERS:** Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, the Wyoming State Forestry Division, Platte County, Albany County and Converse County; the Rawlins Field Office of the High Desert District of the Bureau of Land Management.