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News Release

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Spruce Creek Fire Update

Dolores, Colo., May 20, 2024 – With favorable conditions, firefighters on the Spruce Creek Fire were able to continue firing operations yesterday. Working within an established perimeter of roads and fence lines and using the aerial ignition capabilities of two drones, the fire now covers approximately 1,342 acres. It has been burning in ponderosa pine/Gambel oak, aspen and some spruce. The fire has been burning with low-to moderate intensity. Approximately 110 fire personnel are assigned to the fire which is located about 11 air miles northeast of Dolores on Haycamp Mesa. The fire was started by lightning on May 14th.

“We are working with this natural ignition to maximize the positive effects from fire and minimize the negative effects that would come with a catastrophic fire. This means making wise choices about our fire response in ways that reduce the long-term risks to our watersheds and communities,” said Nick Mustoe, District Ranger for the Dolores Ranger District.

To ensure firefighter and public safety, the forest is planning to implement a temporary area closure. A map and text of the order will be posted as soon as it available, which is expected to be sometime later today. The proposed closure will extend north and northeast from the junction of Forest System Roads 556 and 557. The closure will cover all or parts of roads 556, 557, 558, 396; 396A ;398; and 398A.

Smoke will continue to be visible this week from across the area. Smoke will settle into valleys and other low-lying areas, especially at night and in the early morning hours. Wildfire smoke may affect your health. For more information, please go to: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>

An incident webpage has been set up for the Spruce Creek Fire at: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/cosjf-2024-spruce-creek-co>

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