

OFFICIAL



Oak Ridge Fire Update

Wednesday, July 3, 2024

Rocky Mountain Area Complex Incident Management Team 3

Casey Cheesbrough, Incident Commander

Location: Three miles northwest of Beulah, CO

Size: 1,191 acres

Date Reported: June 22, 2024

Containment: 9%

Cause: Lightning

Total Personnel: 756

Today's map has been updated with additional divisions and two branches. This is due to the expansion in the number of firefighters and operational tactics. As fuel conditions, weather, and on the ground resources change, so do the tactics and strategy of fire managers. Yesterday, two hotshot crews were able to work in from different directions on the northwest perimeter (Div. W and U) of the fire. Further south on the western perimeter (Div. M), crews scouted for ways to work directly on the fireline. These three crews will be camping remotely near the fire to reduce travel time in to these remote portions of the fire. Additional fireline containment was added on the area closest to Beulah (Div D). Indirect, secondary lines further out away from the fire continue to be expanded and improved. These lines serve as tools for managers to utilize if needed and as additional protection for Beulah.

Current Situation

The team continues to assess the need for strategic firing operations on portions of the fire. As weather and fuel conditions allow, these operations are anticipated to occur. When these burns occur, periodical times of increased smoke will be in the area. An infrared flight was flown early this morning along the southeastern edge of the fire. These flights are a valuable tool in helping managers determine the need for strategic firing operations.

With many new resources on the ground, crews will be getting familiar with the plan and continue to implement and improve firelines on the ground. Due to improved weather and fuel conditions, direct work in Div. W and U on the northwestern fire's edge will continue, with mopping up of areas of heat. Structure groups will continue to check previous preparations, making sure that adequate placement of equipment and lines are in place to protect values at risk.

Weather & Smoke Information: Isolated to scattered showers will move in from the west and will be over the fire through 5:00 p.m. Winds will be from the northeast between 3-8 mph. As winds align with terrain, isolated tree torching may be visible.

The U.S. Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program is now producing a daily smoke outlook report specific to south central Colorado and the Oak Ridge Fire. You can read and download the outlook by going to

<https://outlooks.airfire.org/outlook/d9fa3c77>.

Closures: The San Carlos Ranger District of the Pike and San Isabel National Forests issued an area, trail and road closure effective June 26, 2024. Go to www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/psicc/alerts-notices to read and download the entire order.

Evacuations: The areas in Pueblo County that are on pre-evacuation status include Middle Creek Canyon Road, Vine Mesa, Cascade Avenue, Pine Avenue and Beulah Highlands Road. For all evacuation information, visit:

www.puebloemergency.info.

Temporary Flight Restrictions: There is a 24-hour a day Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) over the fire area. The TFR includes restrictions against private drones. Remember, If you FLY, we CAN'T. Air incursions will impede firefighting efforts and ground our aircraft.

OAK RIDGE FIRE INFORMATION

Fire Information Phonenumber: 719-315-1536 **Time:** 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Facebook: @OakRidgeFire2024 **Email:** 2024.oakridge@firenet.gov

InciWeb: www.inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/copsf-oak-ridge-fire

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