

Great Basin Complex Incident Management Team #4



Deer Creek Fire Update

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Contact Fire Information: 385.393.0516

or 2025.DeerCreek@firenet.gov

InciWeb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/utmlf-deer-creek>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UtahWildfire

Start Date	Cause	Size	Percent Containment	Helicopters	Engines	Crews	Dozers	Total Personnel
7/10/25	under investigation	14,760	7%	6	23	6	5	415

Yesterday evening Deer Creek Fire structure protection groups, including heavy equipment, engines, and crews, moved into Colorado due to an increase in fire activity and strong westerly winds that pushed the fire approximately two miles over the Utah-Colorado border to the T2 Road. Engines are staged along Colorado Highway 90 and in Paradox, Colorado, and are ready to respond to any fire activity. Residents of Montrose County can register for emergency alerts by signing up through Montrose County Sheriff's Office, <https://montrosecountysheriffsoffice.com/montrose-alerts/>.

Difficult weather conditions are forecast to continue over the next several days with afternoon thunderstorms possible, producing erratic outflow winds with gusts up to 60 mph. Dozers and crews will continue constructing containment line to protect structures at risk. Unless winds become too strong, aircraft will be used in conjunction with hand crews and heavy equipment, focusing on the north and east where the fire is most active. Since the Deer Creek Fire started, aviation resources have dropped almost 300,000 gallons of retardant on the surrounding area, focusing on private property and critical infrastructure like the Highway 46 / 90 corridor.

The damage assessment of primary structures within the current fire perimeter is complete and 11 private structures, a Forest Service guard station, and a communication site were damaged or destroyed in the early days of the Deer Creek Fire. Additional damage assessments are ongoing. Numbers are preliminary and further assessments are being completed by San Juan County.

Smoke increased significantly throughout the Colorado Plateau due to the multiple fires burning in Utah and Colorado. For specifics on smoke and air quality in your area, please visit AirNow.gov. Anyone sensitive to smoke exposure should limit time outdoors and consult with your doctor as necessary.

Evacuations: San Juan County issued a map with new evacuation zones clarifying the affected geographic areas. Additional information can be found on the San Juan County Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/SanJuanUtah>. Current evacuation orders remain in place. The Sheriff, in coordination with CIMT 4, will lift evacuations when it is safe for residents to re-enter the area. Sign up for emergency alerts through the county, <https://sanjuancountyut.gov/emergency-management/page/san-juan-alerts>.

Closures: For the safety of firefighters and the public, the Manti-La Sal National Forest has enacted an area closure. See the map and description at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r04/manti-lasal/alerts/deer-creek-wildfire-closure-area-roads-and-trails-moab-ranger-district>. County roads within the San Juan County evacuation area are closed to public traffic. Anyone traveling along the Highway 46 / 90 corridor near the Utah-Colorado border should check current road conditions for information about any possible closures and be aware of changing conditions. Fire managers are asking the public to avoid the area of the old airport landing strip in Spanish Valley so that the helicopters and crews staged there can safely operate.



Visit Utah Fire Info, <https://utah-fire-info-utahdnr.hub.arcgis.com/>, for more information on these and other fires.

