



WILLOW FIRE INCIDENT UPDATE Saturday, July 18, 2026

Public Information: 719-258-9897

Hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Email: 2026.willow@firenet.gov

Incident Website: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/copsf-willow-fire>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WillowFirePSICC/>

Residents Evacuated: 91

Structures Threatened: 1,132

Structures Destroyed: 0

Acres Burned: 6,967

Containment: 37%

Start Date: June 28, 2026

Cause: Human

Personnel: 588

Injuries: 12

Hand Crews: 9

Dozers: 5

Helicopters: 3

Water Tenders: 9

Operational Update: Light rain fell over the incident yesterday but had minimal impact on fire activity. Fire continued to consume fuels within the containment lines in the northern and eastern portions of the fire footprint. In the southeast, successful burnout operations conducted over the past several days resulted in mostly smoldering conditions. In the southwest, fire continued to move into higher elevations where fuels are less continuous. Slope has had less influence on fire behavior than areas where wind and receptive fuels align. Hotshot crews will be accessing the Mount Massive Wilderness to engage the fire directly. They will use tactics designed to confine the fire while keeping their impact on the land as minimal as possible.

Weather & Fire Behavior: Today's forecast calls for a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms between noon and 5pm. Skies will be mostly sunny, with a high near 72. Calm winds becoming east/southeast around 10-15 mph with gusts around 20 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 30%. While winds are expected to remain light, thunderstorms and lightning may produce local gusty, erratic winds.

Evacuations: Evacuation information is available from the Lake County Office of Emergency Management and Lake County Sheriff's Office. For more information, maps, re-entry (Salamander) card information and public safety updates, visit the Lake County website at <https://lakecountycolorado.gov/599/Willow-Fire>.

Road Closures: While forest roads located within the perimeter of the fire are closed to the public, main thoroughfares remain open to public use. These closures will continue to impact local access to private property and critical infrastructures to include communication sites and municipal water facilities. Motorists should remain alert of increased fire traffic in the area of the Willow Fire. An interactive Colorado Department of Transportation road map is available at <https://maps.cotrip.org/>.

Forest Closures: A map for the portion of the Pike-San Isabel National Forest that is closed to the public during firefighting operations is available at www.fs.usda.gov/r02/psicc/alerts/willow-fire-area-closure.