



WILLOW FIRE INCIDENT UPDATE Thursday, July 16, 2026

Public Information: 719-258-9897

News Media: 719-569-5537

Hours: 8 a.m.–8 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: 6,861

Containment: 37%

Start Date: June 29, 2026

Cause: Human

Personnel: 525

Injuries: 8

Hand Crews: 7

Dozers: 4

Helicopters: 3

Water Tenders: 7

Operational Update: Crews are finding success with a combination of strategic burning operations and the use of natural features to their advantage. While the rugged, inaccessible terrain, specifically Bald Eagle Mountain area continues to present challenges, firefighters were able to improve the fire's edge, nonetheless. Indirect confinement strategies have been the method of addressing interior fire activity. Firefighters will continue to take advantage of natural terrain features, direct engagement and indirect confinement strategies.

Weather & Fire Behavior: Incident meteorologists are forecasting highs today from the low to mid-70s with humidities in the 25-30% range. Light north winds in the morning will become increasingly stronger to 10mph with gusts 20mph changing to North/Northeast in the afternoon and at times may become erratic. A 70% chance of thunderstorms this afternoon is forecasted with a predicted amount of 1"-1.25" of precipitation. Local flash flood warnings are possible if rainfall rates become greater than 0.30" per hour.

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://lakecountyco.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. 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.