



WILLOW FIRE INCIDENT UPDATE Friday, July 17, 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: 6,877

Containment: 36%

Start Date: June 28, 2026

Cause: Human

Personnel: 505

Injuries: 12

Hand Crews: 7

Dozers: 4

Helicopters: 3

Water Tenders: 7

Operational Update:

The Willow Fire continues to consume available fuels inside the containment lines as firefighters work to strengthen and add depth to those lines. In the southeast portion, the fire slowly backed through fuels, supported by minor firing operations. In the southwest portion, the fire continued moving into higher elevations where fuels are scattered. Fire activity did increase at times when winds and receptive fuels were in alignment. The long-term drought and a critically dry fuel bed have played a significant role in wildfire vulnerability for this area. This recent minimal precipitation has done little to mitigate the issue. Firefighters will continue to use full suppression tactics.

Weather & Fire Behavior: Today will begin mostly sunny, with increasing clouds by the afternoon and a 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Temperatures will reach a high of 74 with light and variable winds with humidities in the 25-30% range. While winds are expected to remain light, thunderstorms and lightning may produce brief heavy rain accompanied by 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.