



WILLOW FIRE INCIDENT UPDATE Wednesday, July 22, 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: 42

Structures Threatened: 15

Structures Destroyed: 0

Acres Burned: 7,196

Containment: 48%

Start Date: June 29, 2026

Cause: Human

Personnel: 703

Injuries: 13

Hand Crews: 13

Dozers: 5

Helicopters: 4

Water Tenders: 8

Operational Update: Strong southeast winds tested the fire yesterday; however, firelines held, and the fire footprint remains unchanged. Only one to two-tenths of an inch of rain fell on the fire Monday night, and fuels dried sufficiently to burn again yesterday. A considerable amount of rain will be needed to improve dry conditions. Crews completed fireline construction, conducted a firing operation, and mopped up in the Bald Eagle Mountain area. In the Halfmoon Creek area, at the southern end of the fire, crews continue to strengthen and improve firelines. Additionally, chipping of vegetation along contingency lines in the Halfmoon Creek area is nearing completion. Crews are also scouting and making progress on fireline construction in the Mount Massive Wilderness. Patrol and mop-up operations continue near the Fish Hatchery. Furthermore, fire managers are preparing a fireline suppression repair plan.

Weather & Fire Behavior: A significant wind shift is expected today, with morning winds changing from the southwest to the northwest in the afternoon with wind gusts up to 25 mph. There is a 60% chance of rain this afternoon. Showers and thunderstorms are possible each afternoon for the remainder of this week, with Thursday expected to be the most critical day. The temperature is expected to reach a high of 72 degrees today. Minimum relative humidity is expected to be 29%.

Evacuations: The Lake County Sheriff's Office, in coordination with California Interagency Incident Management Team 8, lifted the pre-evacuation notice for Zones 4A, 4B, 6B, 9, 21D, 22A, 22, and 23. Evacuation Zones 21B, 21C, and 6A are now in pre-evacuation status as of July 20, 2026. Residents should contact the Lake County Sheriff's Office for re-entry information or visit the Lake County website at <https://lakecountyco.gov/599/Willow-Fire>. Zones 6, 21, and 21A remain under Evacuation status.

Road Closures: While forest roads within the fire perimeter are closed to the public, the road closures at the intersections of County Road 10 and 11A, as well as County Road 10 and Highway 24, were lifted on Monday, July 20. Motorists should remain alert for increased fire traffic in the Willow Fire area. An interactive Colorado Department of Transportation road map is available at <https://maps.cotrip.org/>

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