



WILLOW FIRE INCIDENT UPDATE Friday, July 24, 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: 48

Structures Threatened: 15

Structures Destroyed: 0

Acres Burned: 7,196

Containment: 55%

Start Date: June 29, 2026

Cause: Human

Personnel: 535

Injuries: 16

Hand Crews: 11

Dozers: 4

Helicopters: 4

Water Tenders: 12

Operational Update: Light precipitation fell yesterday over the fire area measuring upwards of 0.13 inches. In the area toward the fish hatchery, crews continue to build depth and secure those firelines. Minimal impact direct extinguishment strategies in the Mount Massive Wilderness are being utilized by crews to contain the western edge, addressing spot fires as they occur. Interior unburned islands continue to be consumed. Suppression repair work in the Bald Eagle Mountain and fish hatchery/Arkansas River is taking place. Crews continue to work in the Halfmoon Creek area with chipping along the contingency line.

Weather & Fire Behavior: Showers and thunderstorms diminished over the region late Thursday, though the fire area was largely missed. An upper level high pressure system will move in and dominate the area for the next several days causing an increase in temperature and drying. The high temperature at the fire is forecast to be in the mid-70s on the lower slopes and upper 60s on the upper slopes. Some moisture will be trapped under the high pressure system causing the opportunity for isolated afternoon thunderstorms over the next several days. Fire behavior is expected to be minimal today due to the weather conditions.

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. 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, main thoroughfares remain open for public use. 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.

Temporary Flight Restriction: A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) remains in effect. Details are available at https://tfr.faa.gov/tfr3/?page=detail_6_4562.