



Cabin Lake Fire Information
Scott Bovey– Incident Commander-Type 3
Update 8:30 p.m.
Aug. 14, 2018

Evacuation and Closure information contact Rio Blanco Dispatch: 970-878-9600 and please follow www.facebook.com/RioBlancoCountySheriff
Press Contact: Kate Jerman, 970-948-1894

Extreme fire behavior on Cabin Lake Fire prompts additional evacuations

UPDATE: Rio Blanco County Sheriff has issued a mandatory evacuation for all residents along County Road 10 south from the County Road 17 and County Road 10 intersection (also known as the South Fork drainage), a road block is in effect at this intersection. Residents in the area south of South Fork Road toward Burro Mountain southwest of County Road 10 also remain under mandatory evacuation. The pre-evacuation warning for County Road 17 remains in effect. Please continue to follow the Rio Blanco County Sheriff on Facebook or call 970-878-9600 for evacuation information.

The Cabin Lake Fire, which has grown to 3,700 acres and is 35% contained, is experiencing extreme fire conditions due to dry fuels and gusting 45 mph outflow winds from thunderstorm cells in the area. This is driving the visible smoke column, which stood over 23,000 feet high earlier this evening. As a result, smoke from the Cabin Lake Fire may be visible from Garfield, Eagle, Pitkin, and Routt Counties.

Today, crews engaged the fire using dozers, handcrews, and engines along this southeastern flank of the fire through the South Fork drainage. Heavy Type 1 helicopters were used throughout the day to make water drops in coordination with ground operations. These water drops were used to limit the spread of the fire towards the South Fork of the White River. Crews also engaged the fire along the northern perimeter and structure protection operations are ongoing. Structure patrol and protection will continue throughout the night.

Extreme fire behavior is attributed to critically dry, heavy, dead and downed fuel conditions and gusty/erratic wind behavior. The fire is moving south and east through an old burn scar and has become established on the west side of the South Fork drainage. The area is comprised of dead and downed trees and grass cover. Those fuels are very dry and releasing large amounts of heat and smoke when they burn. The fire is active, torching, spotting ahead of itself with small crown runs.

Road and Forest Closures: There is mandatory closure of County Road 10 (including residents) starting at the intersection of County Road 10 and County Road 17. The Buford New Castle Road remains closed

at the County Road 10 and County Road 17 intersection and south to the Meadow Lake Campground Turnoff (Forest Road 601).

All trailheads and campgrounds in the South Fork drainage on the Blanco Ranger District remain evacuated and closed. An emergency area closure remains in place on the Blanco Ranger District of the White River National Forest for the Cabin Lake Fire. Please visit here for more information:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/whiteriver/alerts-notice> .

Photos: Photos taken on the evening of August 14, the Cabin Lake fire exhibited extreme fire behavior producing a tall, visible column.

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