



Custer County Sheriff's Office

Shannon Byerly, Sheriff
702 Rosita Avenue
Westcliffe, CO 81252

Date: October 22, 2016

Re-entry process update for the Custer County Junkins Fire Evacuees

No further RE-ENTRY zones are being authorized for the foreseeable future.

- Re-Entry passes must be obtained at the Wetmore Volunteer Fire Station located at 200 County Road 290, Wetmore, CO 81253. Passes are available from 7:00am to 4:00pm today.
- The re-entry passes are authorized under the authority of the Custer County Sheriff's Office and authorize the person access to his or her property only. Proof of residence and identification are required for a re-entry pass.
- Custer County Sheriff's deputies will conduct preliminary inspections of all homes prior to re-entry.

Evacuation orders remain in effect for the following locations:

- **County Road 387,**
- **County Road 358 from Engleman Rd. to Highway 165**
- **Highway 165 from McKenzie Junction to Ophir Creek Rd.**

Updated information on confirmed structure losses are: 9 homes, 17 outbuildings.

Custer County has opened a Disaster Assistance Center to provide information and assistance at the Wetmore Volunteer Fire Station located at 200 County Road 290, Wetmore, CO 81253.

Hours of Operation: Saturday, October 22, 2016 from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Custer County Information Line (719) 283-1710 is available 7:00am to 10:00pm for additional information.



Great Basin National Incident Management Team 1

Junkins Fire

October 22, 2016, Update

Fire Size:
17,809 acres

Containment:
39%

Resources:
20 Hand Crews, 4 Single Engine Air Tankers, 2 Heavy Air Tankers, 2 air attack platforms, 6 Helicopters, 33 Engines, 10 Water Tenders

Total Personnel:
722

Location:
11 Miles East of Westcliffe,
Colorado

Started:
10/17/2016 0356 MDT

Cause:
Downed Power Line as a
result of a Wind Event

Management:
Great Basin National Incident
Management Team 1

For more information:

Follow us on Twitter:
[@JunkinsFire](#)

Visit us on Facebook:
[www.facebook.com/JunkinsFire/](#)

See our InciWeb post:
[http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5071/#](#)

Call the Information Line:
719-283-1710

The number of personnel and equipment working to suppress the Junkins Fire has significantly increased. Crews have expanded containment to 39%.

There is a Red Flag Fire Weather Warning in effect today. The forecast calls for clear skies, higher temperatures and increased wind speeds. These conditions may contribute to increased fire behavior, and higher levels of smoke on roadways and in surrounding communities. During the early morning hours an inversion occurs which can push smoke down into the valleys like a thick fog, making driving especially dangerous. Everyone is encouraged to take extra care while driving during periods of reduced visibility. Fire suppression activities attract the attention of drivers. Watch out for vehicles slowing unexpectedly or stopping along the road to watch helicopters and other fire apparatus.

Firefighters continue to use a combination of tactics to contain and suppress the fire.

Along the Hardscrabble Road west of County Road 387, and along Rudolph Mountain working east towards County Road 387 multiple 20-person hand crews will dig fire line and clear vegetation to construct containment line. A bulldozer will be used to cut containment line through heavy vegetation in these areas.

Aviation resources will be utilized in the rugged terrain on the north and southeast portions of the fire. Fixed wing aircraft will be used to apply "lines" of retardant to contain the fire and support ground crews.

Crews on the east and southeast flanks of the fire will work to secure and reinforce the established containment lines. Firefighters will be checking around homes and other structures in the area to ensure that there are no concealed hot spots that might reignite and threaten those structures.

Firefighters working in the Mason Burn Scar and west of County Road 387 will build direct containment line where possible. Additional containment line will be constructed along the southern edge of the fire from Highway 165 along the Left Hand Fork Trail to tie in with containment line constructed along Ditch Creek.

Helicopters will be supporting firefighters on the ground by dropping water in areas where fire is most active. Firefighters will also conduct burn out operations to remove vegetation on the perimeter of the fire, thereby creating an area along the edge of the fire where no vegetation remains. This denies the fire the fuel it would need to advance.

Firefighters will continue to staff night operations to monitor the fire perimeter and protect structures.

