



Great Basin National Incident Management Team 1

Junkins Fire

October 23, 2016, Update

Fire Size:
18,099 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:
902

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

This late-season fire burned with high intensity in the early wind-driven stages of the fire. Officials continue to revise information on property losses. It is reported that 9 homes and 18 other structures have been lost. Residents along the Road 387 remain under evacuation orders.

The forecast calls for clear skies, temperatures in the mid 60s, low humidity and winds at 10-15 mph. No rain is predicted at least until the middle of next week. These conditions will 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. Hunting season is currently underway, and many people are in the field. Fire danger is very high, and the public is asked to use extreme caution with fire. Custer County is currently in Stage 2 Fire Restrictions.

On a ridge above Middle Hardscrabble Creek, west of County Road 387, multiple 20-person hand crews are digging fire line and clearing vegetation to construct containment lines. A bulldozer is being used to cut containment lines through heavy vegetation in this area. Some minor burn-out will be necessary to fully secure this fireline so increased smoke may be visible.

Aviation resources continue to be utilized in the rugged terrain on the north and southeast portions of the fire. Fixed wing aircraft are being used to apply "lines" of retardant to contain the fire and support ground crews. Contracted helicopters and Colorado National Guard helicopter air crews are supporting firefighters on the ground by dropping water in areas where fire is most active.

Crews on the east and southeast flanks of the fire are working to secure and reinforce the established containment lines. Firefighters and fire engines are patrolling 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 of 2005 and east of County Road 387 are working to build direct containment lines where possible. Additional containment lines are being 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. Where appropriate, firefighters are conducting burn-out and mop up operations to remove vegetation on the perimeter of the fire, thereby creating a secure area along the edge of the fire.

