



Elk and Lee Fire Update – Friday, August 15, 2025

Rocky Mountain Area Complex Incident Management Team 3

Casey Cheesbrough, Incident Commander

Fire Information: 970-341-8665 | Media: 970-341-8663

Size: Elk Fire: 14,518 acres | Lee Fire: 133,841 acres

Total Personnel: 1,274

Containment: Elk Fire: 93% | Lee Fire 12%

Cause: Lightning

Resources: 14 Aircraft | 29 Hand Crews | 82 Engines | 41 Heavy Equipment

Special Announcement: A community meeting for the Lee and Elk fires will be held on Saturday, August 16, at 7:00 P.M. at the Meeker High School, 550 School St, in Meeker, CO.

Important Note: The Bureau of Land Management has reopened a portion of public lands in Rio Blanco County while keeping other identified areas closed due to recent activity on the Lee Fire. Visit BLM Colorado Fire on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BLMColoradoFire> for additional information and a link to the current closure order.

Yesterday: Lee Fire – Crews made steady progress, increasing containment on the north side of the fire and continued to work along Hogback Ridge to secure the edge. Firefighters went direct along control lines to keep the fire within established boundaries north of County Road 5, while interior fuels continued to burn on the west side. Aviation resources supported crews with water bucket drops on the south end, holding the existing spot fire from spreading further to the south. Despite erratic winds that challenged the control lines, firefighters successfully held the fire north of County Road 5 while continuing to secure control lines along Highway 13.

Elk Fire: The fire remained within established containment lines. The fire continues to creep around and smolder inside the fire perimeter. Crews continued to patrol, mop up, and reinforce lines along the perimeter. Firefighters began suppression repair work to restore areas disturbed during suppression activities.

Current Situation: Lee Fire – While there is an increased chance of precipitation, critically low fuel moisture will continue to drive fire behavior. Conditions are expected to remain slightly below critical thresholds, with the potential for isolated torching and spotting, particularly in unburned pockets inside established containment lines. Crews will patrol and mop up any hotspots to reinforce firelines on the west side and along the Highway 13 corridor. Interior burning is anticipated to continue north of County Road 5. Heavy equipment, fire crews, and aviation resources will continue to work to hold the spot fire south of County Road 5.

Elk Fire: No new growth is expected. Crews will continue to reinforce firelines as they patrol and mop up hotspots inside containment lines and work on fire suppression repair.

Weather & Fire Behavior: Cloud cover and a slight increase in moisture are expected, though the potential for wetting rain remains low. Temperatures will be in the lower 80s with midday west/northwest winds at 6-12 mph and gusts up to 26 mph. Dry thunderstorms may develop, bringing erratic, gusty winds and the potential for rapid changes in fire behavior.

Evacuations and Closures: CR 5 and Hwy 13 remain closed. For the most up-to-date road closure information, please visit www.COTrip.org or use the COTrip app. To sign up for Garfield County Emergency Alerts, go to: <https://garco911.com/>. For Garfield County updates go to: <https://www.garfieldcounty.net/>. Go to the Rio Blanco County Sheriff's Office Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/RioBlancoCountySheriffsOffice> - for accurate up-to-date information on all evacuations and road closures. Sign up for emergency alerts at: <https://rioblancoalerts.genasys.com/portal/en>. White River National Forest closure information at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/whiteriver/alerts>. BLM White River Field Office closures information at: <https://ow.ly/78uF50WGjNW>.

Elk and Lee Fire Information:

Phone: 970-341-8665; Email: 2025.elkrbx@firenet.gov

Facebook: www.facebook.com/elkleefire

Inciweb Lee Fire: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/cowrd-lee-fire>

Inciweb Elk Fire: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/cowrd-elk-rbx-fire>