



Derby Fire

White River National Forest

Fire Information 970-355-3283; 2025.Derby@firenet.gov; www.facebook.com/derbyfire
<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/cowrf-derby-fire>

August 24, 2025

Northern Rockies Complex Incident Management Team 3, Incident Commander Mike Behrens

Location: 13 miles north of Dotsero, CO

Start Date: 8/16/2025;

Cause: Lightning **Size:** Est. 5248 acres

Completion/Containment: 0% 525 total personnel

KEY MESSAGE:

Firefighters are working to build and strengthen control lines along the Derby Fire's west, south, and east perimeters. Aircraft supported ground operations by dropping water and flame retardant on the east and west flanks. The Colorado River Rd. closure has been extended south, closing access to Coffeepot Rd.

CURRENT STATUS:

The east side of the Derby Fire was more active on Saturday, and three aircraft dropped water and flame retardant to slow its spread down the slopes of its southeast flank. The fire is growing slowly on other parts of its south perimeter, where firefighters are constructing control lines from a network of roads, dozer line, and hand line. On Saturday they worked to strengthen and widen those fire lines and plan to continue on Sunday if weather and conditions permit. Other crews have protected over 500 structures by positioning sprinkler kits and removing surrounding fuels. The White River National Forest has expanded their closure order to include the area southwest of Sweetwater Lake to the west rim of Deep Creek Canyon. The Colorado River Rd. closure has been extended south, from the Dotsero roundabout's north side to Red Dirt Rd. Note that Coffeepot Rd. cannot be accessed from its intersection with Colorado River Rd.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR:

Outflow winds have begun to push the Derby Fire south, but there is a good chance of wetting rain on Sunday. Rainfall may also be accompanied by some lightning. Daytime smoke and nighttime fire glows may be visible.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES:

Eagle County has issued an evacuation notice for residents of Sweetwater Rd. and Red Dirt Creek. Zones GYF-263, 266-A, 267, 300, 366, and 369 are in pre-evacuation status. More evacuation information is available at www.ecemergency.org, including where to shelter and resources for pets and livestock.

The Forest Service and BLM have both issued public closure orders in the vicinity of the fire to protect public and firefighter safety. The White River National Forest's newly expanded closure order and map are posted at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/whiteriver/alerts/expanded-derby-fire-closure>. The BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office's closure order and map are posted at <https://www.blm.gov/announcement/blm-issues-land-closure-garfield-and-eagle-counties-firefighting-activities>. In addition, a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) is in place over the Derby Fire. All unauthorized aircraft (including drones) are prohibited from flying near the fire, as they can interfere with authorized air support operations. For more information, visit www.tfr.faa.gov.

