



Lee and Elk Fires

White River Field Office, BLM

Fire Information: 970-341-8665
2025.Lee@firenet.gov

<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/cowrd-lee-fire>
<https://www.facebook.com/elkleefire>

August 22, 2025

Northern Rockies Complex Incident Management Team 1, Incident Commander Brent Olson

Location: 11 miles south of Meeker, Colorado

Start Date: 08/02/2025

Cause: Lightning **Size:** Lee Fire: 137,755 acres | Elk Fire: 14,518 acres

Containment: Lee Fire: 76% | Elk Fire: 100%

400 Total Personnel; 5 Helicopters; 21 Engines; 2 Hand Crews; 9 Water Tenders; 3 Dozers

KEY MESSAGE

Pronounced smoke columns will continue to be visible from both the Lee and Elk Fires. This lingering activity is confined well within the interior of both fires and poses no threat to containment lines. It is driven by the persistent hot, dry weather and will occur until significant precipitation. As these islands of unburned vegetation are consumed, it serves to strengthen containment lines by removing fuels thereby reducing spotting potential.

CURRENT STATUS

Lee Fire – Yesterday, resources completed chipping operations on the east flank and will continue along the southern edge of the fire. With the hot, dry and windy conditions testing containment lines yesterday, firefighters extended staffing hours to monitor and reinforce lines to prevent any spread. Today, aviation and ground crews will continue yesterday's work of cooling down a hot spot along the fire's edge and improving fire lines. Contingency work will resume on a fuel break adjacent to the fire's southern edge.

Elk Fire – Resources have completed much of the planned suppression repair efforts and will continue with heavy machine operations until completion over the next few days.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

A few showers will pass over the fire area this morning. More scattered showers and thunderstorms will develop in the afternoon, bringing chances of brief heavy rain, lightning and gusty winds. Additional showers and thunderstorms are expected this weekend with a significantly wetter period moving in the area late Sunday through Wednesday.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

The Piceance Creek Road (CR 5) remains closed. For accurate up-to-date information on evacuations and road closures for Rio Blanco County go to the Rio Blanco County Sheriff's Office Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/RioBlancoCountySheriffsOffice>. For Garfield County updates go to: <https://www.garfieldcounty.net/>. White River National Forest closure information is available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/whiteriver/alerts>. BLM White River Field Office closure information is available at: <https://ow.ly/78uF50WGjNW>.