



Derby Fire Update – September 1, 2025

Rocky Mountain Area Complex Incident Management Team 3
Casey Cheesbrough, Jay Miller, Ben Sanders Incident Commanders
Fire Information: 970-355-3283

Size: 5,475

Total Personnel: 578

Containment: 6%

Cause: Lightning

Resources: 4 Aircraft | 9 Hand Crews | 27 Engines | 12 Heavy Equipment

Current Situation:

A spike camp is located near West Fork Red Dirt Creek, east of the fire edge, allowing hotshot crews to reduce travel time to where they are building direct line on the fire's edge. The hotshots are working south to eventually meet crews working up from Poison Creek on the southeast corner. This assignment may take several days to complete.

A combined group of 30 hotshots and highly skilled medical personnel will return by helicopter to the Hack Lake area to continue their work on the western perimeter. Being transported by helicopter allows the crew to save time and conserve energy for the day's task, rather than making an arduous hike to the fireline. An Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) will scout for areas of heat in spots outside the perimeter in the northwest portion of the fire and south of the Flat Top Wilderness area. UAS reconnaissance flights identify areas of heat providing crews with coordinates to effectively locate them.

Firefighters continue backhauling excess structure protection equipment from areas where it is no longer needed. Crews continue to patrol and monitor the southern portion of the fire, searching out areas of heat and extinguishing them as they work towards containment. Crews will also monitor and maintain structure protection systems that remain along the Sweetwater, Sheep Creek, and Red Dirt Creek roads.

Weather & Fire Behavior:

Smoke levels are expected to be more noticeable than in previous days as the drying trend continues. Starting Monday, fire activity will increase with rising temperatures and lowering humidity, as seasonal warm and dry pattern returns to Western Colorado this week. Temperatures will stay in the low seventies with a mild 10 miles per hour wind.

For air-quality and smoke outlook information: <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/4d276598>

Evacuations and Closures: Fire restrictions and closures remain in place for lands within the Bureau of Land Management – Colorado River Valley Field Office areas, <https://www.blm.gov/ucr-fire-restrictions>. Restrictions and closures remain in the White River National Forest. See Critical and Fire Restriction Forest Alerts at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/whiteriver/alerts/>.

The Colorado River, Sweetwater, and Red Dirt Creek roads have all been reopened, and the Garfield County and Eagle County Sheriff's Offices have changed the evacuation status for Sweetwater Valley, Sheep Creek and Red Dirt Creek areas to pre-evacuation (READY) status: <https://arccg.is/S0u4G> and www.ecemergency.org.

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 <https://tfr.faa.gov>.

Derby Fire Information

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