



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 27, 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. 5,723 acres

Completion/Containment: 4% 864 total personnel

KEY MESSAGE:

The Colorado River, Sweetwater, and Red Dirt Creek roads have all been reopened. The Garfield and Eagle County Sheriff's Offices have changed the evacuation status for Sweetwater Valley and Sheep Creek and Red Dirt Creek areas to pre-evacuation (READY) status. The Forest Service and BLM have both reduced the size of their closure areas. Firefighters have built almost 11 miles of control lines, and the Derby Fire has been declared 4% contained.

CURRENT STATUS:

Showers have temporarily moderated fire activity this week, but incident managers predict wildfire activity will increase again when the weather warms and fuels dry out. Firefighters have constructed almost 11 miles of handlines and dozerlines along the east, south, and west fire perimeters. The Derby Fire has been declared 4% contained. The term "containment" is used when fire managers are confident that wind and weather conditions will not push the fire past completed control lines. Crews will work to strengthen and widen fire lines as weather and conditions allow. Air support is scouting for potential helispot sites, and structure protection crews are continuing to improve fire defenses around more than 500 structures along Sweetwater Road and Red Dirt Creek Road.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR:

Incident meteorologists predict that showers will continue Wednesday and probably through the rest of this week before warmer weather returns early next week. Daytime smoke and nighttime fire glows may be visible at times when fuels dry out and fire activity increases.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES:

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. More evacuation information is available at <https://arcg.is/S0u4G> and www.ecemergency.org.

The Forest Service and BLM have both reduced the size of their closure areas. The White River National Forest's closure order and map are posted at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/whiteriver/alerts/reduced-derby-fire-closure>. The BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office's closure order and map are posted at <https://www.blm.gov/announcement/blm-reduces-size-land-closure-garfield-and-eagle-counties-derby-fire>. A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) is in place over the Derby Fire.

