



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 28, 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. 5,735 acres

Completion/Containment: 5% **Total personnel** 824

KEY MESSAGE:

Firefighters continue to build and strengthen control lines and scout for access routes. Smoke may be visible as interior fuels reheat during sunbreaks. Wet weather will temporarily moderate fire activity until drier conditions return.

CURRENT STATUS:

Firefighters are actively assessing fireline construction routes on the western side of the fire. Scouting involves mapping proposed routes and detailing the type and number of resources needed. Along the southwestern edge of the fire, crews are reinforcing control lines by searching for lingering heat and removing or extinguishing still smoldering vegetation. Called mopping up, this fire suppression tactic prevents fire spread as it limits the opportunity for embers to roll or blow across the control line into unburned fuels. On the southeastern and eastern edges firefighters are using chainsaws, hand tools and heavy equipment to continue to build line. Crews are building secondary control lines on the eastern side of the fire where hazardous trees and heavier fuel types prohibit working directly on the fire's edge. Air resources are evaluating proposed helispot locations to have medical evacuation sites closer to where firefighters are working. Structure protection crews continue to improve and maintain fire defenses around more than 500 structures along Sweetwater Road and Red Dirt Creek Road.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR:

Cool and humid weather conditions continue over the next few days. Remnants of hurricane Juliette is expected to bring showers Friday. These scattered storms will bring moisture and produce gustier winds. Drier, warmer weather is predicted Monday or Tuesday. Minimal fire behavior is expected, but daytime smoke may be visible. When periods of sunlight dry and warm vegetation, fire activity is increasing at higher elevation areas within the fire perimeter. Dead and downed trees hold heat where hot surfaces are not exposed to moisture. The fire may creep slowly in aspen stands that have not burned completely.

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 Bureau of Land Management 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.

