



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 22, 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. 3569 acres

Completion/Containment: 0% 211 total personnel

PUBLIC MEETING TONIGHT – 630pm Gypsum Town Hall, 50 Lundgren Blvd.

KEY MESSAGE:

Aircraft dropped water and fire retardant along the Derby Fire's western flank. Firefighters built dozer lines along the fire's southern perimeter, then worked overnight to secure it. Structure protection on over 200 structures has been completed.

CURRENT STATUS:

The fire is expanding slowly because it is mostly driven by fuels and not wind. [Fire managers are being vigilant in their preparations for thunderstorm outflow winds that could push fire south into the Sweetwater Creek drainage.](#) Fire managers have already worked to complete structure protection for over 200 structures along Sweetwater Rd. to Red Dirt Creek by positioning sprinkler kits and removing surrounding fuels. Yesterday firefighters established dozer lines along the fire's southern perimeter, then worked to secure it overnight. Aircraft supported ground crews by dropping water and fire retardant along the fire's west flank to slow its expansion toward Sweetwater Rd., buying time for firefighters to secure and connect containment lines.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR:

The trend of hot and dry weather continues to make subalpine fuels very receptive to fire spread. However, the weekend is likely to bring cooler temperatures and increased chances of monsoonal precipitation. Daytime smoke and nighttime glows from the fire may be visible.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES:

Eagle County has issued an evacuation notice for residents of Sweetwater Rd. and areas of the Colorado River Rd. from Sweetwater to Red Dirt Creek. Derby Mesa Loop remains 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 closure order and map are posted at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/whiteriver>. 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>.

