



# Derby Fire Update – September 3, 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:** 530

**Containment:** 41%

**Cause:** Lightning

**Resources:** 5 Aircraft | 8 Hand Crews | 20 Engines | 9 Heavy Equipment

## Current Situation:

Containment rose to 41% on the Derby Fire. Crews completed handline construction in steep and rugged terrain, on the southwest corner of the fire and are beginning to move north. Support from helicopter water drops in the area helped to mitigate the lingering heat along the southern fire edge. Firefighters are also working to repair impacts of fire suppression actions on the natural environment.

Four separate groups of firefighters and support personnel have been flown into different parts of the fire and will continue their work on Wednesday. A hotshot crew on the north flank of the fire started line construction along the fire's edge, using Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST), in the West Fork Sheep Creek drainage of the Flat Tops Wilderness where heat has been detected. These tactics include cold trailing, using bare hands to feel for residual heat along the fire's edge to reduce the amount of line construction. They will be assisted by aerial assets and anticipate working at this location for the next few days.

A wildland fire Suppression Module (SMOD) is taking action to extinguish hotspots outside of the western fire perimeter. A SMOD is a smaller firefighting crew that is used for Initial Attack and other specific fire suppression needs. More than 70 firefighters are working on the eastern fire edge. Hand crews are traveling by helicopter to reduce travel time, moving further north, continuing handline construction.

On the southeastern edge of the fire, an unmanned aircraft system identified several heat pockets. Crews plan to focus suppression efforts on those areas Wednesday.

## Weather & Fire Behavior:

Dry weather continues across the area. Temperatures will be in the lower 80's with humidity once again dropping into the mid-teens. However, there will be cloud cover and a slight chance of rain keeping the potential for fire spread minimal.

**Evacuations and Closures:** Fire restrictions and closures remain in place for 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](http://www.ecemergency.org).

A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) is in place over the Derby Fire. For more information, visit <https://tfr.faa.gov>.

Derby Fire Information

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