



# Derby Fire Update – September 4, 2025

Rocky Mountain Area Complex Incident Management Team 3

Casey Cheesbrough, Jay Miller, Ben Sanders Incident Commanders

Fire Information: 970-355-3283

**Size:** 5,447

**Containment:** 42%

**Resources:** 5 Aircraft | 8 Hand Crews | 21 Engines | 7 Heavy Equipment

**Total Personnel:** 526

**Cause:** Lightning

**Current Situation:** The precipitation we received last week coupled with lower temperatures offered us an opportunity for firefighters to take suppression actions along the fire's edge. Incident managers are taking proactive action to consider firefighter, and equipment needs to most efficiently and effectively engage the fire.

Firefighters are using Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) as they work in the Flat Top Wilderness Area. The crews are currently utilizing aviation assets which include unmanned aviation systems (UAS) to support all aspects of their operation.

Crews continue their work on the southeast side of the fire as they continue to construct fireline from the southeast corner up to West Fork Red Dirt Creek. As containment increases on the southern side of the fire, firefighters will focus on patrolling and mopping up isolated heat around cabins and a portion of the Ute-Sweetwater Trail. When patrolling the firelines, crews or engines are rechecking their previous work and validating there are no signs of smoke or heat that indicate the fire is still active.

On the northeastern side of the fire, crews continue to build fireline towards each other, one from the south end, and one from the north end. As crews are working, other fire personnel will follow them mopping up as they contain the fireline. Crews will utilize helicopters to transport hose, pumps, and fuel to support the firefighters' efforts. They'll also bring back debris from crews and spike camps, helping ensure the ground is left clean.

**Weather & Fire Behavior:** High pressure has moved out of the region, allowing moisture back to the area and lower temperatures in the 70's. Thursday will be partly cloudy with chances of isolated showers which will keep 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. 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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