



# Derby Fire Update – September 5, 2025

Rocky Mountain Area Complex Incident Management Team 3  
Casey Cheesbrough, Jay Miller, Ben Sanders Incident Commanders  
Fire Information: 970-355-3283

**Size:** 5,453

**Containment:** 42%

**Resources:** 4 Aircraft | 7 Hand Crews | 18 Engines | 5 Heavy Equipment

**Total Personnel:** 470

**Cause:** Lightning

**Transition to Type 3 Team:** With a reduction in fire activity and resources assigned, the complexity of the Derby Fire is decreasing. In response, a Type 3 incident management organization will officially take command of the Derby Fire on Saturday at 6:00 a.m. While the management of the fire will transfer to a different team, resources are remaining to perform fire suppression. However, personnel are being released to ensure staffing levels match the operational needs of the incident while maintaining the capability to respond should conditions change.

**Current Situation:** Firefighters are continuing work on the western fire edge. Thursday, hotshots worked with Unmanned Aerial Systems, commonly known as drones, to identify hotspots and extinguish them within the Flat Top Wilderness area.

On the eastern side of the fire, crews are working to reinforce a section of fireline that climbs north through the rugged terrain near the Poison Creek drainage. Air resources assisted in delivering gear and equipment to eliminate the need for firefighters to carry it in, as one crew will utilize a spike camp to continue working in a more remote area. Medical personnel and equipment will remain nearby to support firefighters if necessary.

On the southeast part of the fire, crews have begun suppression repair, in collaboration with a resource advisor (READ). A READ's role is to advise incident personnel to identify and mitigate impacts of fire suppression activities on natural and cultural resources. Part of the suppression repair is focusing on fireline near historic cabins and a portion of the Ute-Sweetwater Trail.

Suppression repair consists of restoring areas disturbed by fireline construction, staging areas, helipads, and other operational activities to pre-fire conditions. Heavy equipment is used to pull back the removed vegetation over the dozer lines. Replacing vegetation helps prevent soil erosion and makes it easier for the environment to recover.

**Weather & Fire Behavior:** A change in weather will bring a heavy cloud cover, scattered showers, and possible thunderstorms throughout the day with a temperature drop to 65 degrees. The potential for fire activity is low.

**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> and the White River National Forest. See Critical and Fire Restriction Forest Alerts at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/whiteriver/alerts/>. Fire restrictions have dropped to Stage 1.

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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