



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 29, 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. 5,736 acres

Completion/Containment: 5% **Total personnel** 692

KEY MESSAGE:

Firefighters continue suppression efforts. Smoldering and lone tree torching persist at higher elevations. Transfer of Command from Northern Rockies Complex Incident Management Team 3 to Rocky Mountain Complex Incident Management Team 3 will occur at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 30, 2025.

CURRENT STATUS:

Firefighters continue scouting opportunities to construct indirect dozer line on the west side of the fire as well as possibilities to engage direct. On the southern and southeastern flanks, crews are patrolling, mopping up and cold trailing. Cold trailing involves gently feeling the ground and partially burned vegetation for residual heat and extinguishing any remaining hotspots. On the eastern perimeter, firefighters are progressing with indirect handline construction as weather conditions permit. Structure protection crews are working to improve and maintain fire defenses around more than 500 structures along Sweetwater Valley, Sheep Creek, and Red Dirt Creek Road.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR:

Remnants of Hurricane Juliette will bring showers and thunderstorms on Friday, with potential for localized flash flooding and light debris flows. Over the past five days, the fire area received 0.75 inches of rain – more than 100 million gallons of water. Fire activity will be minimal until conditions dry out and several days of low relative humidity make fuels more flammable. However, low moisture levels in dead and downed trees will continue to produce isolated pockets of smoldering in higher elevation conifer stands. Isolated tree torching in subalpine firs is possible. Smoke may increase when sunlight re-energizes these pockets of heat. Gradually warmer and drier weather is expected beginning Sunday.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES:

Fire restrictions and closures remain in place for lands within the Bureau of Land Management – Colorado River Valley Field Office areas and White River National Forest. Find out more at their websites:

<https://www.blm.gov/ucr-fire-restrictions>. 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://arcg.is/S0u4G> and 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>.

