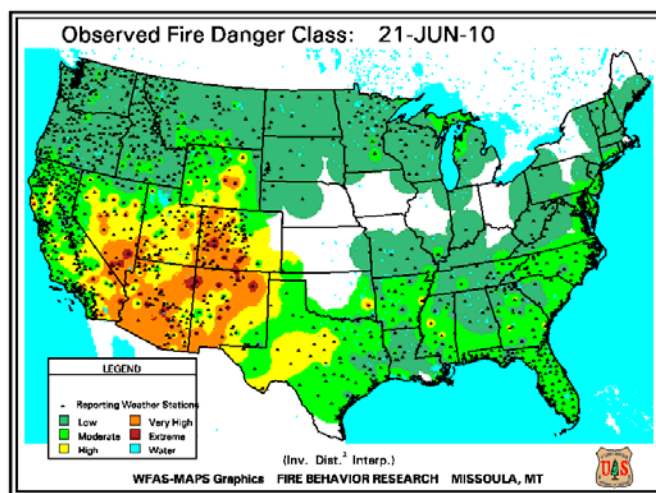




2010 Colorado Wildfire Season June 22, 2010 Update



Current Large Fires in Colorado

Three large fires currently are burning in the state:

- The **Parkdale Canyon Fire** currently poses the greatest threat to persons and structures (full details below).
- The lightning-caused Medano Fire, 25 miles northeast of Alamosa in Saguache County, has been burning since June 6. The fire is burning primarily in rugged terrain on the east side of Great Sand Dunes National Park, and now on the San Isabel National Forest as well. The fire is estimated to have burned more than 4,700 acres, but no homes currently are threatened. The fire is being managed with a confine strategy, and the Park remains open.
- The lightning-caused Water Creek Fire, 8 miles northwest of Rifle, has burned approximately 170 acres of primarily dead and downed timber and spruce/fir since it began June 19. It is 5 percent contained.

Parkdale Canyon Fire ~ New since 11:30 a.m., June 22, 2010

Location / County: County Road 61, south of Highway 50 and northwest of the Royal Gorge Bridge in Fremont County. Approximately 14 miles northwest of Cañon City.

Start Date: June 21, 2010

Acres: Approximately 740 acres of piñon pine, juniper and brush

Containment: 0 percent

Evacuations: Approximately 50 homes had been evacuated as of last night; horses and other animals also have been evacuated. Residents are being allowed back to their homes as conditions allow.

Structures Lost: Multiple structures have been damaged

Other Values at Risk: An additional 100 homes, plus campground and businesses (those within 2 miles of the fire perimeter)

Significant Events: Active fire behavior with crowning; evacuations late yesterday afternoon. The Royal Gorge Bridge, Buckskin Joe and a KOA campground will remain closed until the fire no longer poses a threat to those locations; the Arkansas River in the Gorge is also closed to rafting. Highway 50 was temporarily closed, but has been reopened to one-way traffic guided by a pilot car. Predicted fire weather could increase rate of spread and threaten fire lines and structure protection in place today.

Cause: Human-caused; multiple fire starts were reported in the area around 2 p.m. yesterday and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

Cost (Estimated): Estimates not yet available.

Resources: Approximately 175 personnel; a Type III Incident Management Team (IMT) under USFS Incident Commander Mike Hessler currently is managing the incident. A Type II IMT (Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team B) has been ordered for the fire and is expected to take over fire management tomorrow under Incident Commander Todd Pechota. Multiple city, county and federal crews are on the fire, including a northern Colorado Type II crew of CSFS firefighters, the Juniper Valley Corrections Crew and the Pike Hotshot Crew. Two CSFS single-engine air tankers (SEATs), one heavy air tanker, nine engines (one CSFS), two water tenders and two helicopters also are on the fire. Two Type I crews are on order, but haven't yet arrived.

EFF/ FEMA Status: EFF only

Activity Summary

- Regional resources are being requested at a more rapid pace, due to multiple large fires burning in Arizona and the two larger Colorado fires.
- The Parkdale Canyon Fire is the only new large fire in the Rocky Mountain area since June 20. For more information about large fires in the Rocky Mountain Area, go to:
<http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
- EFF funds spent to date: \$0 (prior to the Parkdale Canyon Fire)
- No management teams from this region currently are working out of state
(Sit report: <http://www.nifc.gov/news/nicc.html> or <http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/logistics/overhead.html>)

Current Colorado Fire Outlook

- The fire situation rating for the Rocky Mountain Area is at **Preparedness Level 2**, indicating that resources within local dispatch areas are still adequate, with the potential for some mobilization of additional resources from other local dispatch areas.
- The current national fire danger map at http://www.fs.fed.us/land/wfas/fd_class.png shows very high to extreme fire danger for the Western Slope and south-central regions of the state.
- A Red Flag Warning remains in effect today for Colorado Fire Zones 205, 214, 216, and 220-229, which together cover all of south-central Colorado and some of the southern Western Slope, due to strong winds, low relative humidities and dry fuels. For more information, go to

<http://www.weather.gov/alerts/co.html>. A map can be viewed at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/firewx/main.php>.

Current National Fire Information

For National Fire Maps, go to:

- <http://geomac.usgs.gov/> (and click on “Quick View Active Perimeters”)
- <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf> for national fire news with national preparedness level. Large fires burning in the Southwest, particularly in Arizona, may impact current resource availability for Colorado. Nationally, 38 large fires are being managed to achieve multiple objectives.