

Fire Update – Stoner Mesa Fire

Thursday, August 21, 2025 – 8:00 a.m.

Rocky Mountain Complex Incident Management Team 1

Justin Conrad, Incident Commander



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Information Staffing Hours: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Current Situation: Fire activity increased on the west side of the fire near Stoner Mesa early in the shift yesterday. The fire spotted over containment lines near the Stoner Mesa Trail. Aircraft, heavy equipment and crews were used to engage the new fire activity and were successful in getting around the spot fires. The Stoner Mesa fire is currently 9,872 acres, and containment has increased to 27%.

There continues to be a large presence of firefighters working on and near both CR 38 and Highway 145. Please slow down and remain alert in these areas for your safety as well as that of our firefighters.

Division A/E:

There was no significant growth of the fire in this area yesterday. Containment was achieved on the west side of the division from the division break east to West Twin Springs Trail. Firefighters will continue securing the fire's edge, moving east where it is safe to do so. Fire crews will work alongside saw teams to safely mitigate any hazard trees along the fire's edge as they do mop up work. Lookouts are posted at vantage points to continue to observe the east side of the division to look for increased fire activity in the area.

Division T:

Firefighters are mopping up and patrolling containment lines along the 545 road moving east toward the division break. Crews encountered a few very small spot fires near the east tip of the fire that were quickly contained during yesterday's shift. Today, hand crews will remain in the area to patrol and secure the fireline. Firefighters will continue to mop up along the fireline where safe to do so. Hazard trees remain a risk in the area and falling modules are being used to mitigate hazard trees and allow mop up work to continue.

Division X:

The fire was very active yesterday in Stoner Canyon and along the Stoner Mesa Trail. Crews encountered spot fires early in the day and worked to control these spots with retardant drops, dozerline and hand crews. More crews were diverted to the area to assist with containing the spot fires. Due to long travel times to get into the division, a new spike camp is being established on Stoner Mesa to allow crews quicker access to the fireline. Yesterday, helicopters made equipment drops throughout the day to assist in getting the new spike camp established. Today's plan is to continue building containment line along the Stoner Mesa Trail moving south ahead of the advancing fire. Crews will continue to scout the area ahead of the fire and look for opportunities to build indirect line off the mesa's edge down into the Stoner Creek drainage.

Division W:

Heavy equipment continues to slowly work along the 201 road constructing and fortifying indirect line that runs to the south. Strategic firing operations in the division are complete and crews will work on mop up and patrol. Crews will also work with heavy equipment to strengthen containment lines in the area. Crews are scouting the area to the west of the 201 road, looking for areas to establish indirect handline from the edge of Taylor Mesa down into the Stoner Creek drainage to align with crews doing the same in Division X.

Stoner Group: Hot shot crews finished scouting the area ahead of the fire and will begin line construction in Divisions X and W down off Stoner Mesa and Taylor Mesa into the Stoner Creek drainage. A new spot fire was located in the Stoner Creek drainage ahead of the main fire and firefighters will be scouting the area looking for opportunities to engage.

Structure Groups: Structure Group 38 has finished structure prep work around Dunton and moved back west along CR 38 to fortify previous work. Crews are installing sprinklers, setting up pumps and hoselines and clearing out fuels from around structures along the CR 38 corridor to the Hwy 145 junction. Structure group 145 have focused their efforts on the Stoner area with structure protection measures and continue to do property assessments along Highway 145.

Weather and Fire Behavior:

Increased cloud cover yesterday helped moderate fire behavior later in the day. Today, we will continue to see hot and dry conditions, however, moisture will begin to slowly flow in from the southwest. Chances of thunderstorms developing today will start around 1200 and peak in the afternoon. Gusty outflow winds of up to 35-40 mph are expected with these approaching storms. Due to dry conditions on the ground, minimal rainfall is expected with no accumulation on the ground. There is potential for lightning with these thunderstorms.

Fuels are still extremely dry with crews encountering new spot fires daily. Stoner Canyon continues to be the area with the most fire activity. Cloud cover yesterday limited fire growth and uphill runs in the afternoon. Due to an inversion in the Stoner Canyon area, the canyon will see a thermal belt developing, allowing active burning conditions late into the night.

To view an interactive smoke and air quality outlook for communities surrounding the fire area, visit Stoner Mesa Fire outlook: <https://outlooks.airfire.org/outlook/2991e054> (north) and <https://outlooks.airfire.org/outlook/b1e651b4?>(south).

Evacuations:

The Dolores County Sheriff's Department moved the Mavreeso evacuation zone into "Set" status early afternoon yesterday. For real time evacuation information please follow emergency alerts from the Dolores County Sheriff's Department at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067579500732>.

To sign up for Emergency Alerts, please visit the Dolores County Emergency alerts at <https://member.everbridge.net/311578402488579/new> and <https://member.everbridge.net/337829242601830/login> for Montezuma County Emergency alerts.

Closures and Fire Restrictions:

The San Juan National Forest announced emergency closures in areas affected by the Stoner Mesa Fire. Additional details about the closure are available at

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/nfs/files/r02/sanjuan/publication/StonerMesaFireAreaandRoadClosure.pdf>
or <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/sanjuan/newsroom/forest-orders>.

Fire restrictions are in place for the San Juan National Forest <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/sanjuan/alerts/stage-2-fire-restrictions> and all surrounding public lands and in Dolores County. More information can be found at <https://dolocnty.colorado.gov/stoner-fire-information>.

Wildfires are a no-fly zone for unauthorized aircraft, including drones. **If you fly, we can't.** For more information, visit <http://knowbeforeyoufly.org>.

Fire Statistics:

Size: 9,872 acres
Containment: 27%
Total Personnel: 762
Location: 11 miles NE of Dolores, CO
Reported: July 28, 2025
Cause: Lightning

For More Information:

Phone Line: 970-341-8668
Email: 2025.stonermesa@firenet.gov
InciWeb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/cosjf-stoner-mesa-fire>
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YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@StonerMesaFire>
LinkTree: <https://linktr.ee/StonerMesaFirePIO>