



BABYLON FIRE

Tuesday, July 07, 2026, at 8:00 am

Contact Fire Information: (435) 677-1958, Email: 2026.babylon@firenet.gov

<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/utmlf-babylon>

<https://www.facebook.com/mantilasalnationalforest>

Fire Statistics:

Start Date: June 26, 2026

Cause: Undetermined

Size: 100,479 acres

Containment: 0%

Structures Lost: 5

Location: 25 miles SW of Monticello, UT

Resources Assigned:

Total Personnel: 1,204

Crews: 30

Helicopters: 21

Engines: 58

Dozers: 4

Water Tenders: 17

Current Situation:

Fire activity continued to increase yesterday, with the most active growth occurring to the east and northeast. This movement was anticipated, and firefighters remained focused on strengthening and securing containment features designed to keep the fire within the broader indirect containment strategy. Crews utilized a combination of heavy equipment, hand crews, and natural terrain features to reinforce containment lines and improve defensible areas ahead of the fire's progression. On the eastern flank of the fire crews utilized aircraft to drop retardant to slow the fire's progression.

On the northern edge of the fire, firefighters were able to engage directly along portions of the fire perimeter, allowing crews to work at the fire's edge to extinguish heat and strengthen containment. Structure protection resources continued operations in and around the Monticello area, assessing and improving protection measures for homes, infrastructure, and critical facilities.

Along the southern and western portions of the fire, firefighters and heavy equipment operators worked in tandem to reinforce road systems and establish stronger control features by clearing vegetation and improving access for suppression resources.

Weather and Fire Behavior:

Tuesday's weather will continue to be hot with critically dry relative humidity dropping to between 13-15%. Afternoon winds will transition from terrain-driven to a more established west-southwest flow with gusts up to 25 mph. The threat for afternoon pyrocumulus cloud development and dry lightning. Fire behavior will continue to be very active driven by extremely dry fuel conditions, winds, and high instability in the atmosphere.

Evacuations and Closures:

The following zones in San Juan County are in a SET status: Zones CY-1, CY-2, Peter's Hill - West, Airport, Energy, and SJC-1.

All National Forest lands, roads, and trails in the Monticello Ranger District of the Manti-La Sal National Forest are closed to the public. The Needles District of Canyonlands National Park is also fully closed.

The Bureau of Land Management has temporarily closed all BLM managed public lands west of Harts Draw Road and north through the Indian Creek Corridor to Indian Creek Falls. This closure includes areas such as Shay Mesa, Beef Basin, Dark Canyon, and the Sweet Alice Wilderness Study Area.

Anyone not involved in firefighting operations must stay out of these closure areas and avoid all public lands within the boundary formed by State Route 211 to the north, U.S. Route 191 to the east, and State Route 95 to the south.

Evacuations and closures can be found on the Babylon Inciweb page.

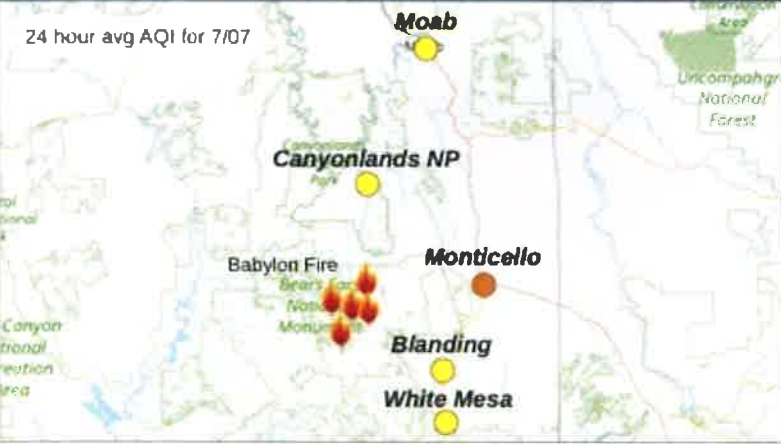


SMOKE OUTLOOK

SE Utah – Babylon

7/07 - 7/08

ARA: John Pendergrast, pendergrast01@gmail.com, and
Nathan Santo Domingo (t),
nathan.santodomingo@dnr.wa.gov
Issued: 07/19 MDT 7/07/26
Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program



Moab Air quality will continue to range from GOOD to MODERATE.



Blanding Air quality will continue to be good through the afternoon, but settling smoke overnight may impact town.



Canyonlands NP Expect mostly MODERATE air quality with some occasional periods of GOOD in the afternoon.



Monticello Air quality has improved, but expect MODERATE to UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS conditions to return by this evening.



White Mesa Air quality will improve this evening, but UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS is possible overnight.



FIRE

The [Babylon](#) fire is currently estimated at 100,479 acres and is 0% contained. Fire activity for the [Babylon](#) fire is expected to remain active.

SMOKE

The Babylon Fire developed a significant smoke plume on Monday that was directed right over Monticello. Ashfall was observed in town as fire activity picked up in the afternoon and evening. Fire behavior may not be as intense on Tuesday as it was Monday, but a smoke plume will likely develop and drift over Monticello again in the afternoon, bringing air quality from MODERATE range to UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS by the evening. Periods of UNHEALTHY air will be possible along with the continued threat of ashfall.

In Blanding and White Mesa, expect GOOD air quality through most of the afternoon with MODERATE conditions in the evening. Monday night, smoke was starting to settle in Blanding, but scattered thunderstorms brought a roughly hour-long period of gusty winds that helped clear some smoke out. If this happens again, GOOD air quality may be observed overnight. If it does not, smoke may reach UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS.

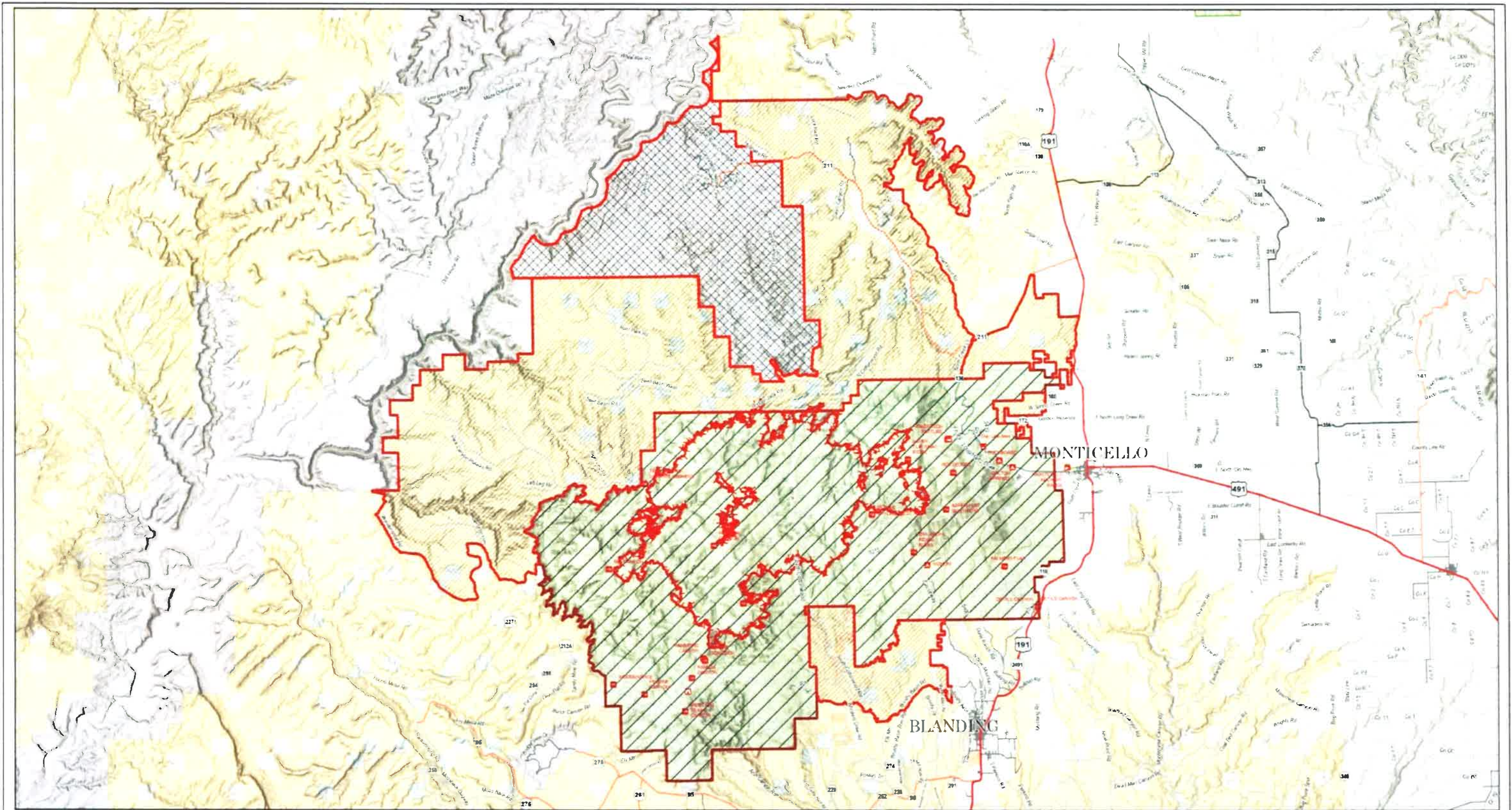
For Moab and Canyonlands National Park, air quality will continue to fluctuate between GOOD and MODERATE levels. The best time to go outside will be early morning and late afternoon.

HEALTH STATEMENT

Smoke can be harmful to your health. Check with your doctor if there are any health concerns and monitor your local air quality conditions using the Fire and Smoke Map.

AIR QUALITY INDEX	ACTIONS TO PROTECT YOURSELF	LEARN MORE
 Hazardous (H)	Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity	
 Very Unhealthy (VU)	Everyone should avoid all physical outdoor activity	
 Unhealthy (U)	People within Sensitive Groups should avoid all physical activity	
 Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG)	People within Sensitive Groups should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion	
 Moderate (M)	Unusually sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion	
 Good (G)	None	
VIEW ONLINE FOR MORE INFORMATION	https://www.utahdnr.gov/smoke-net	

Disclaimer: This forecast is based on fine particulates only; ozone is not included. Forecasts may be wrong, use at own risk. Use caution as conditions can change quickly. See your health professional as needed. Smoke sensitive groups should take appropriate precautions.



Public Information

Babylon
UTMLF-005112
07/07/2026 Day
100,479 acres at 07/6/2026 2107 hrs

0 1 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18
Miles

1:400,000 RST 7/7/2026 0517
Acres from IP
North American 1983 Datum, Lambert Grid



- National Park Closure
- Bureau of Land Management Closure Order UT-CYD-2026-02
- Forest Service Closure Order 04-10-26-05-0
- Uncontained Fire Edge

- Primary Highway
- Secondary Highway
- Primary Paved
- Secondary Paved
- County Road (Dirt)
- Secondary Dirt
- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Dirt (Not Paved)
- Road, Not Maintained for Passenger Car
- Forest Service Lands
- BLM

- BIA/Tribal
- NPS
- State
- Private
- City/County/Local