



BABYLON FIRE

Wednesday, July 08, 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: 101,073 acres
Containment: 11%
Structures Lost: 5
Location: 25 miles SW of Monticello, UT

Resources Assigned:

Total Personnel: 1,353
Crews: 34
Helicopters: 22
Engines: 68
Dozers: 4
Water Tenders: 21

Current Situation:

As a result of tactical and strategic firefighting operations, the fire's containment is now at 11%. Crews continue to work on the north end of the fire perimeter to increase containment. Infrared technology was utilized to locate and map heat sources, using a direct approach to grab the fire's edge and directly extinguish residual sources of heat.

Fire activity remained high in the northeast corner of the fire near Shay Mountain, where crews continued to face steep terrain, fuel-driven winds and a landscape of dry timber. Firefighters continue work strengthening and securing control features designed to keep the fire within the broader indirect containment boundary. Night operations began yesterday evening, providing round the clock resources to the most active part of the fire.

Along the southern edge of the fire, crews were able to mop-up sources of heat near the head of Hammond Canyon and were aided by both fixed wing and helicopters. This allowed hot shot crews to engage directly with the fire and work towards a direct confinement line.

Crews worked on creating more handline near the southeast edge of the fire. A combination of air and ground resources will be utilized as crews work towards increasing containment over the next several days. Fire crews will continue to strengthen control lines and will look for opportunities to engage directly with the fire when winds and weather allow.

Weather and Fire Behavior:

Isolated showers and thunderstorms occurred Tuesday evening, bringing some moisture to the fire. This moisture provides early morning shade, helping to moderate fire behavior and delay the development of pyrocumulus clouds and dry lightning. Wednesday's weather will continue to be hot, and afternoon winds will transition from terrain-driven to a more established westerly flow. Increased fire behavior remains a threat due to a combination of erratic winds, high instability in the atmosphere and extremely dry fuels.

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.

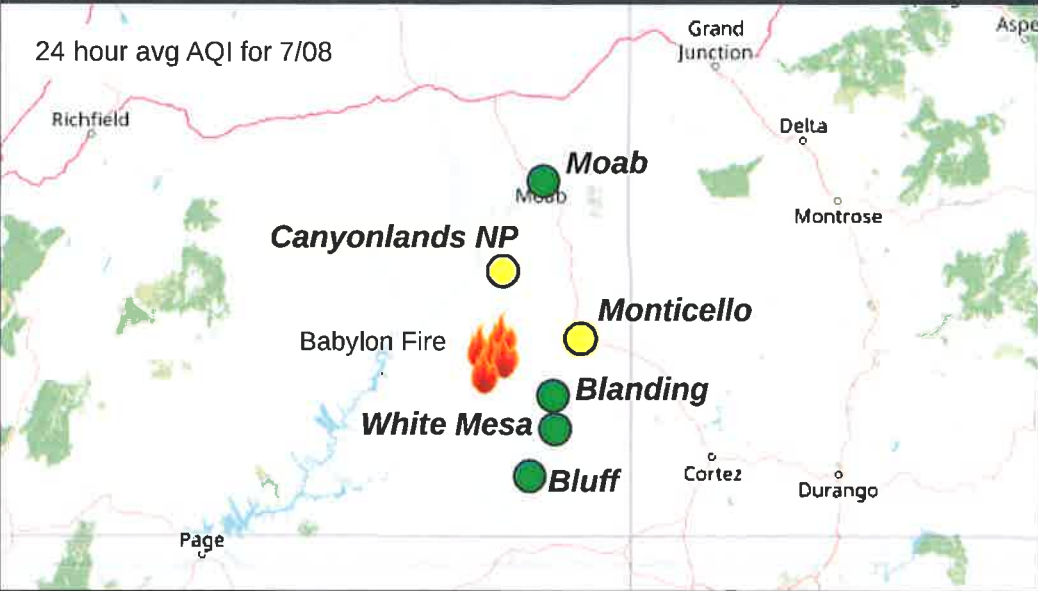


SMOKE OUTLOOK

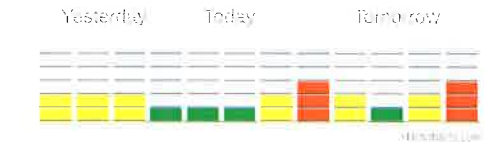
SE Utah – Babylon

7/08 - 7/09

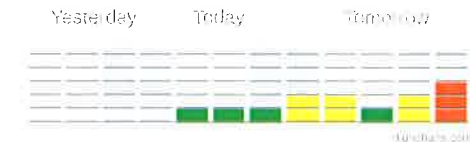
ARA: John Pendergrast, pendergrast01@gmail.com, and
Nathan Santo Domingo (t),
nathan.santodomingo@dnr.wa.gov
Issued: 07:42 MDT 7/08/26
Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program



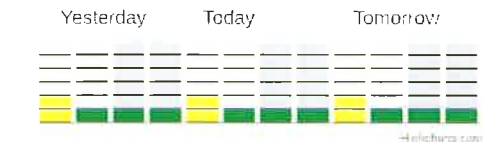
Monticello Expect GOOD air quality through the afternoon, but smoke may reach UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS overnight.



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



Moab After a few hours of MODERATE air quality, expect mainly GOOD conditions by early afternoon.



White Mesa GOOD air quality will likely persist into the evening, but MODERATE conditions are expected overnight.



Bluff Expect GOOD air quality for most of the day, but smoke is likely to settle overnight.



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



FIRE

The **Babylon** fire is currently estimated at 101,073 acres and is 11% contained. Fire activity for the **Babylon** fire is expected to remain active.

SMOKE

Smoke was once again scoured out by gusty thunderstorms last night, keeping air quality in communities around the fire GOOD to MODERATE. Expect this to continue across the area in the afternoon. Depending on fire behavior, some ashfall will be possible along HWY 191 mainly near and north of Monticello.

Smoke will likely have a better time settling and flowing down rivers, creeks, and canyons tonight with thunderstorm chances moving out of the forecast. Monticello may see periods of UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS overnight due to its proximity to the fire. Bluff may also see a period of USG conditions overnight due to its position at converging drainages.

For Blanding and White Mesa, expect mostly GOOD conditions through the afternoon and evening with MODERATE air quality overnight. Similar conditions are expected at Canyonlands and Moab, however, there is a greater chance for MODERATE air quality in the 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

- Hazardous (H)**
- Very Unhealthy (VU)**
- Unhealthy (U)**
- Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG)**
- Moderate (M)**
- Good (G)**

ACTIONS TO PROTECT YOURSELF

- Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity
- Everyone should avoid all physical outdoor activity
- People within Sensitive Groups should avoid all physical activity
- People within Sensitive Groups should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion
- Unusually sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion
- None

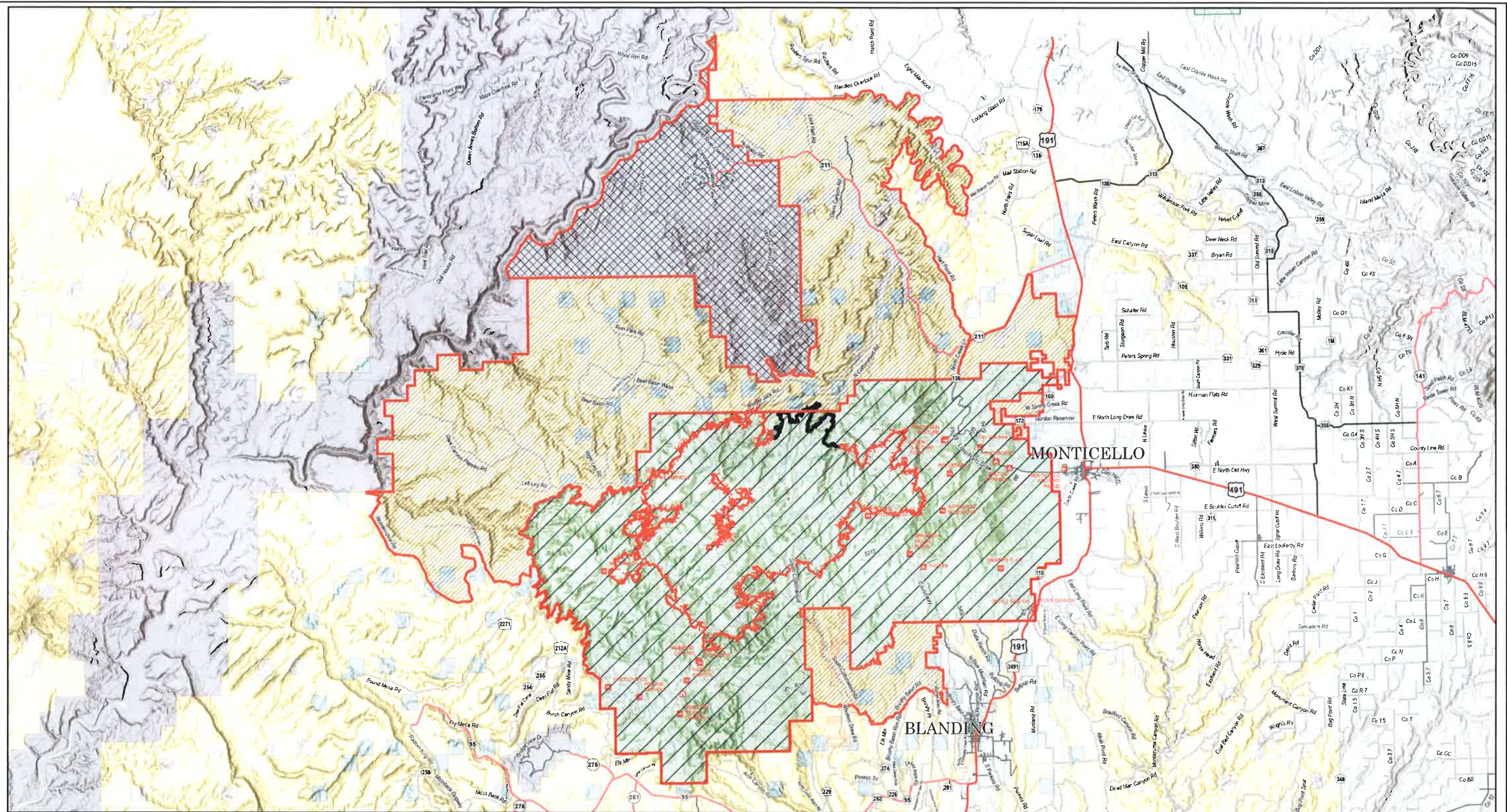
LEARN MORE



VIEW ONLINE FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.wildlandfiresmoke.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
07/08/2026 Day
101,073 acres at 07/07/2026 1600 hrs

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

1:400,000 | P151 | 4/6/2028 04:51
Acres from IR
North American 1983 Datum, Lat/Long Grid



- National Park Closure
- Bureau of Land Management Closure
Order UT-CYD-2026-02

- Forest Service Closure
Order 04-10-26-05-0
- Contained Fire Edge
- 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