



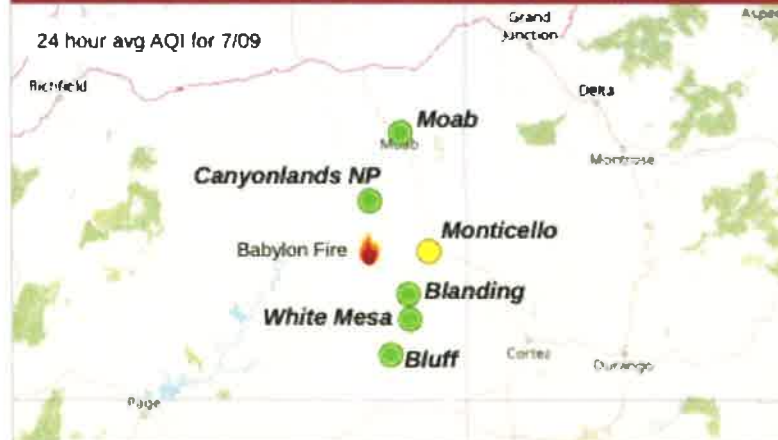
SMOKE OUTLOOK

SE Utah – Babylon

7/09 - 7/10

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Issued: 07/24 MDT 7/09/26
Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program

HEAT ADVISORY: Extreme Heat Watch This Weekend ([more info](#))



Monticello A few hours of GOOD air quality is possible in the afternoon. Otherwise, expect MODERATE conditions with USG overnight.



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



Moab Expect GOOD air quality today.



Blanding Air quality will continue to be good through the afternoon, but smoke may drift along HWY 191 overnight.



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



Canyonlands NP Expect GOOD air quality today.



FIRE

The **Babylon** fire is currently estimated at 102,932 acres and is 21% contained. Fire activity for the **Babylon** fire is expected to remain active.

SMOKE

With fire activity concentrated on the northeast side of the fire, the primary air quality concerns remain in Monticello. During the day, we will continue to see air quality improve to mostly MODERATE air quality with a few hours of GOOD mixed in. As the column develops, ashfall remains possible. Overnight, conditions will fall to UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS with a few hours of UNHEALTHY air possible. Gradual improvement around sunrise should occur with light winds out of the northeast expected to develop overnight.

For Blanding and White Mesa, GOOD air quality will continue throughout the afternoon and evening. Overnight, air quality is likely to dip to MODERATE as the winds shift. Further south, smoke from the Ferris Fire in western Colorado may settle and drain toward Bluff. Expect MODERATE to UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS as you wake up in Bluff.

With the shift in wind direction, GOOD air quality is expected in Moab and Canyonlands National Park.

SPECIAL STATEMENT

An Extreme Heat Watch is in effect from Saturday at 12:00 PM until Sunday at 9:00 PM.

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





BABYLON FIRE

Thursday, July 09, 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: 102,932 acres

Containment: 21%

Structures Lost: 5

Location: 25 miles SW of Monticello, UT

Resources Assigned:

Total Personnel: 1,465

Crews: 39

Helicopters: 14

Engines: 69

Dozers: 4

Water Tenders: 22

Current Situation:

Firefighters increased containment along the southern edge of the Babylon Fire today, from Hammond Canyon up to Steamboat Point, bringing overall containment to 21%. Crews also quickly contained a new start north of the main incident near Bridger Jack Road. It is currently 50% contained, with full suppression expected this morning. Overnight, firefighters will continue preparing fire lines and monitoring the Babylon Fire's movement toward Indian Creek.

On the eastern edge of the fire, active fire behavior below West Mountain resulted in spot fires crossing to the east side of Indian Creek. Ground crews, supported by aviation assets, are widening the containment box by falling back to Jackson Ridge Road and Indian Creek Road. Operations will leverage fuel transitions between timber and grass to stitch lines together and steer the fire north, away from Monticello.

Structure protection groups have completed the southern dozer line on federal lands and continue deploying water handling equipment around homes and at Camp Jackson. The Redding Interagency Hotshot Crew will insert into Dark Canyon to construct direct line on the southwestern edge of the fire. Multiple crews and unmanned aerial systems (UAS) modules will work to establish a handline down into the North Cottonwood drainage to secure the northern perimeter below Shay Mountain.

Weather and Fire Behavior:

The Babylon Fire remains a heavily fuels-driven incident. Although cloud cover and aviation support moderated fire activity yesterday, today's drier air mass will keep minimum relative humidities into the upper single digits to 10%. High temperatures will reach the mid-80s to low 90s, driving up-valley and upslope winds, with west ridge-top gusts reaching 20-24 mph. When wind, terrain, and heavy fuels align, high-momentum runs are anticipated, particularly in the challenging northeast corner where direct attack remains difficult. Looking ahead, an Excessive Heat Watch is in place effective Saturday afternoon through Sunday evening, bringing triple-digit temperatures up to 103°F.

Evacuations and Closures:

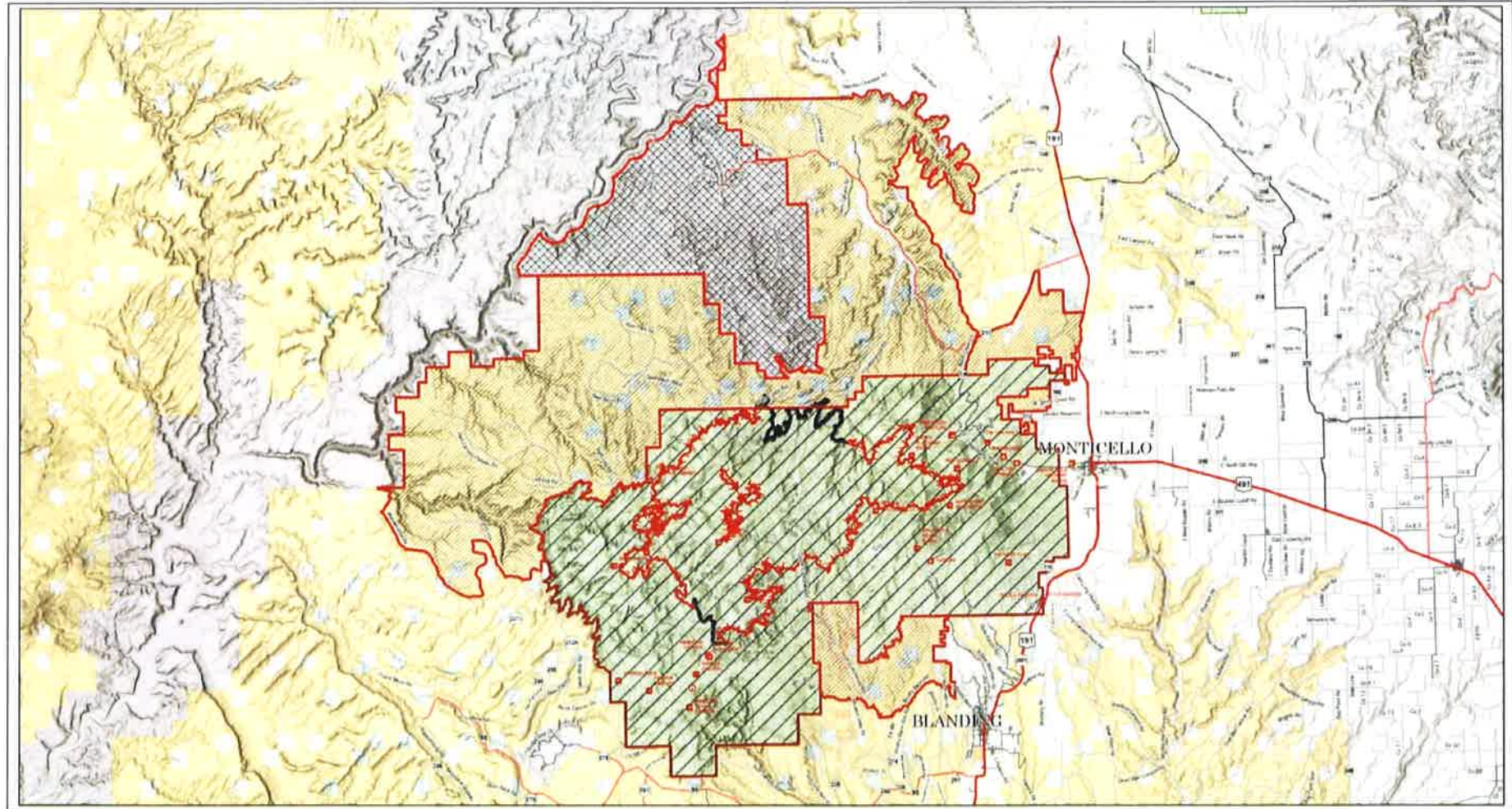
The following zones in San Juan County are in a SET status: Zones CY-1, CY-2, Peter's Hill - West, Airport, Energy, and SJC-1.

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.



Public Information

Babylon
UTMLF-005112
07/09/2026 Day
102,932 acres at 07/08/2026 2:54 hrs
Scale
0 1 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18
Miles
NAD 83 UTM Zone 12N
UTM 12N
UTM 12N
UTM 12N



- 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