

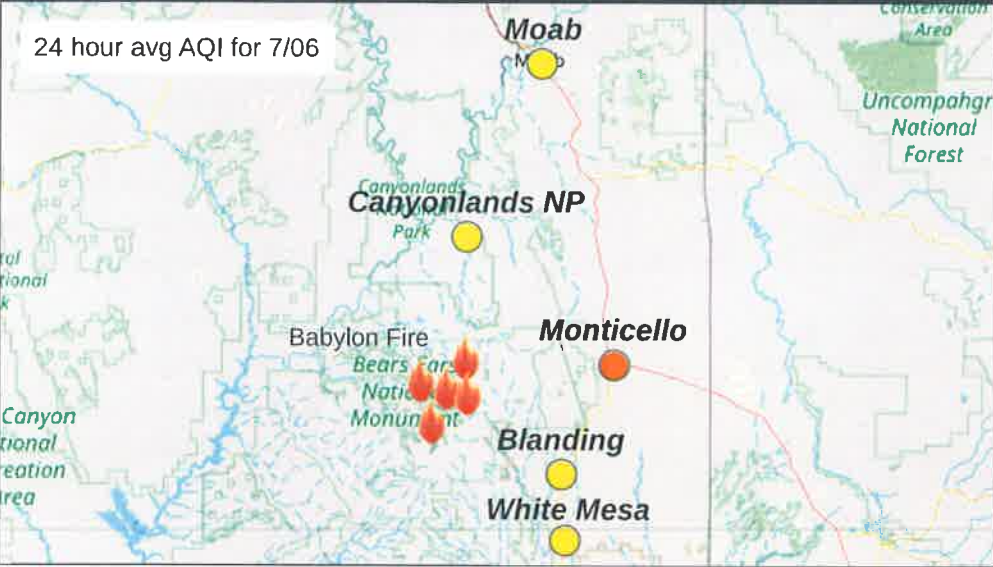


SMOKE OUTLOOK

SE Utah – Babylon

7/06 - 7/07

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Issued: 07:48 MDT 7/06/26
Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program



FIRE

The [Babylon](#) fire is currently estimated at 96,564 acres and is 0% contained. Fire activity for the [Babylon](#) fire is expected to remain active.

SMOKE

As the Babylon Fire pushes to the east, air quality concerns will increase in Monticello. Expect MODERATE to UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS (USG) in Monticello today with the worst air quality late in the evening and overnight. Additionally, light ashfall was observed in Monticello on Sunday. This won't be picked up by an air quality sensor but is another public health hazard to contend with moving forward. Further south, White is being impacted by more smoke in the morning hours than Blanding as smoke travels down the river and canyon drainages around the fire. Both White Mesa and Blanding will see GOOD air quality this afternoon, but there's a greater chance for smoke to settle along HWY 191 overnight and may reach as high as USG for both locations. Canyonlands is expected to remain MODERATE for most of the day while Moab continues to fluctuate between GOOD and MODERATE. Smoke may increase at these locations Tuesday or Wednesday as southwest winds increase across the fire.

Moab Smoke will increase slightly this afternoon, but it will likely fluctuate between GOOD and MODERATE.



Monticello Air quality may improve slightly in the afternoon, but expect mostly MODERATE to UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS.



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



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



Canyonlands NP Expect continued MODERATE air quality with some occasional periods of GOOD.



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.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.



BABYLON FIRE

Monday, July 06, 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: 96,594 acres

Containment: 0%

Structures Lost: 5

Location: 25 miles SW of Monticello, UT

Resources Assigned:

Total Personnel: 1,142

Crews: 29

Helicopters: 11

Engines: 56

Dozers: 4

Water Tenders: 15

Current Situation:

Due to the fire growth on Sunday, the San Juan County Sheriff made the decision to move the zones CY-1, CY-2, Peter's Hill - West, Airport, Energy, SJC-1 in to Set status.

Yesterday, the fire's activity picked up as it pushed further to the northeast. This movement was expected, and managers remain focused on securing the fire within their wider indirect containment lines. On the northern flank, crews are finishing up clearing work along a primary roadway. Firefighters are utilizing drones equipped with infrared cameras to locate hidden heat sources, sending handcrews to extinguish them where the ground is safe while avoiding the steep, inaccessible terrain. To the east, personnel are continuously refining structure protection plans around Monticello.

On the western and southern borders, heavy equipment and ground crews are clearing thick brush and establishing a secure southern buffer zone along the road system.

Weather and Fire Behavior:

Extremely hot and dry conditions will continue throughout the area, keeping timber and brush at critical, highly flammable levels. While slight increases in nighttime humidity may briefly slow down smaller fuels like grass, the larger trees will continue to drive intense fire growth. Due to unstable air and rising smoke columns, there is an increased risk of a large pyrocumulus column. These specialized cloud formations can generate their own strong winds, lightning, and sudden, powerful downbursts that push the fire in unpredictable directions. Much of yesterday's heavy smoke drifted from active burning in the Blue Creek area. Looking ahead, winds will steadily increase toward mid-week, which will contribute to intense fire behavior.

Evacuations and Closures:

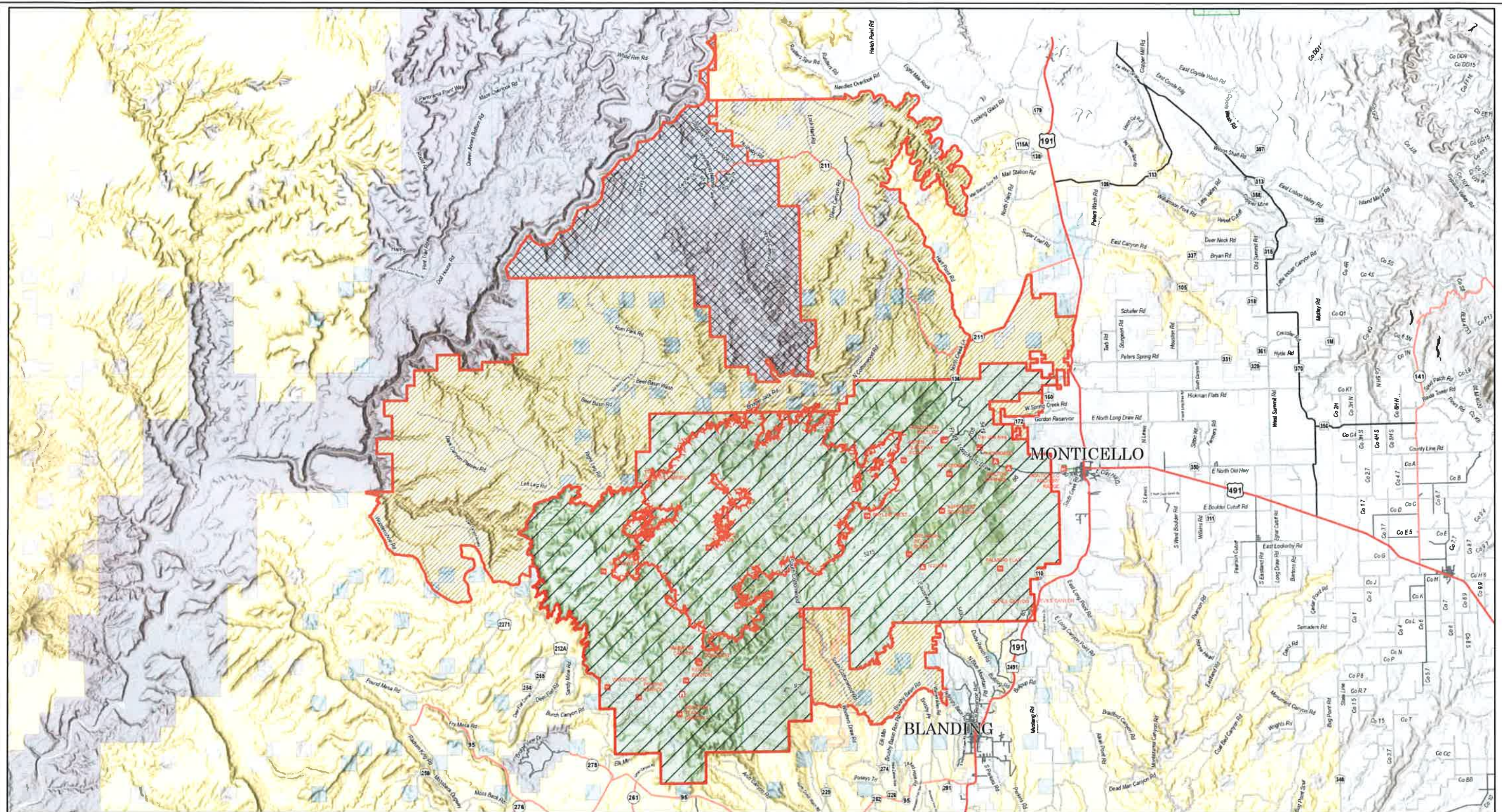
To support firefighting efforts and reduce safety risks from the Babylon Fire, land management agencies have put broad emergency closures in place. Under these orders, all National Forest lands, roads, and trails in the Monticello Ranger District of the Manti-La Sal National Forest are closed to the public. The Needles District of Canyonlands National Park is also fully closed.

In addition, 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.

The closures above and future updates can be found on the Babylon Inciweb page:

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



Public Information

Babylon
UTMLF-005112
07/06/2026 Day
96,564 acres at 07/5/2026 21:23 hrs

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

1:400,000 | RIST | 7/6/2026 04:11
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
- 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