



PRESS RELEASE

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Skyline Fire Burns 16.2 Acres near Horsetooth Reservoir

PFA firefighters responded to what was named the Skyline Fire at the northeast end of Horsetooth Reservoir Thursday, Sept. 5 at around 11:30 a.m. When crews arrived, it was about 5 acres in size and moving along the ridge to the east of County Road 23 and advancing to the south and east. Firefighters attacked the fire as the command center requested additional resources. There were no injuries and no structures involved. The Water Treatment Plant at the west end of Laporte was the only evacuation mandated by PFA. Other organizations conducted voluntary evacuations.

Battalion Chief Maccarini used aerial views from a drone, information from the firefighters on the ground and other resources to cut off the fire as it tried to move farther north and east. The fire was upgraded to a third alarm when the fire jumped a section of trail due to increased winds. Thirty PFA personnel, 30 apparatus and air resources helped attack the fire. The first air resource was a type 3 helicopter, which dropped buckets of water from Horsetooth Reservoir. It was joined by a single engine air tanker or 'SEAT', which dropped fire retardant along the east and west sections of the perimeter.

Fire containment is just the beginning for firefighters working a wildland fire. Responders stayed on scene through the night monitoring the area and 28 responders spent Friday 'cold trailing' the perimeter. The last unit cleared the scene at 5:53 p.m. on Friday, over 30 hours after the initial arrival. Crews continued to visit and monitor the area throughout the weekend. The fire was declared out Sunday afternoon after the last hot spot was found and extinguished. The final size of the fire was 16.2 acres as measured by the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control.

This wildland fire, like many, required a robust set of resources and strong partnerships between several agencies. There were minimal road closures and no risk to homes. The area was secured from all fronts including County Rd. 23, County Rd. 48C and the northeast end of the reservoir itself.

Other responding agencies included: Larimer County Emergency Services, Larimer County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Forest Service, Larimer County Park Rangers, and the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control.