



Moab Division of Fire Management

Price Field Office, Moab Field Office, Monticello Field Office

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BIG CANYON FIRE

Emery County, Utah... ...Two miles south of the Trail Canyon fire and adjacent to Desolation Canyon, the Big Canyon Fire has grown to 100 acres. "Like the Trail Canyon Fire, this fire is in extremely steep and rugged terrain." said Dave Engleman, the Fire Management Officer of the Bureau of Land Management. The fire was started by lightning and is currently burning on the north slope of Big Canyon in Douglas fir at an elevation of 8000 feet.

Terrain plays a big part in fire fighting tactics. When the terrain is too rough to put firefighters on the ground and no private land or resources are threatened, then the most cost effective alternative is to monitor the fires. This fire will be monitored daily by a reconnaissance plane. However, a plan has been developed should the fire grow and reach one of the predetermined locations in the surrounding vicinity. Tactics will be adjusted pending fire behavior, weather and terrain issues. Other tactical alternatives include an air attack operation and burn-out operations. Ultimately, the terrain and weather will be the final determining factors on which alternative will be used to manage the fire.

During the Trail Canyon fire in July of this year, fire fighters removed the fuel along key holding ridges. These ridges will be used to contain the Big Canyon Fire if needed. Firefighters also removed the excess brush and trees surrounding the structures at the Tavaputs Ranch. These efforts created a buffer around the structures and will reduce the impact of wildfire.

Occasionally, smoke from the Big Canyon Fire may be visible to communities in the surrounding vicinity.

For additional information go to website www.utahfireinfo.gov.