



**Forest Service**

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache

National Forests

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# News Release

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## Mineral Fork Fire Update

**Big Cottonwood Canyon, Utah, September 7, 2016** – The Mineral Fork fire, burning in Big Cottonwood Canyon, has been managed by the Forest Service to provide for firefighter safety and resource benefit. The fire has had minimal growth and burned approximately 20 acres. The fire area has experienced, over the past few days, decreased temperatures and increased precipitation.

Due to advantageous weather conditions and decreased fire behavior, with the exception of smoldering and fire weakened tree/root systems, firefighters will implement full suppression tactics. Bekee Hotze, Salt Lake District Ranger, said “The change in weather gives us the opportunity to now safely extinguish the fire.”

Wildfires are a natural component of forest landscapes. Fire personnel used this lightning-caused fire as an important land management tool to improve forest health, reduce hazardous fuel accumulation, and enhance wildlife habitat. Firefighters have maintained contingency lines to ensure public/firefighter safety, and protect critical watershed in Big Cottonwood Canyon.

**The Mineral Fork Trail** remains **CLOSED**, for firefighter and public safety, by Forest Order (04-19-310). The closure will remain in effect until further notice. The trail is closed to all use, including pedestrian and motorized use. Hikers and hunters, in the Mill B drainage area, are reminded to stay away from the fire area. Copies of the special order and fire information are posted at the trailhead and other locations throughout the canyon. A copy of the order is also available at the Salt Lake Ranger District.

***\*\*Please exercise caution along Big Cottonwood Canyon Road for firefighter and public safety\*\****



Crews hiking in to the fire on the Mineral Fork Trail



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