



For immediate release  
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## **Pilot Injured in Single Engine Air Tanker crash in Rio Blanco County**

CRAIG, Colo. – A single engine air tanker crashed about 3 p.m. this afternoon working the Flat Bush Fire, about 20 miles northwest of Meeker. The pilot was conscious and mobile. He is being evacuated by helicopter.

The cause of the crash is unknown at this time and is being investigated.

The Flat Bush Fire was reported this morning at 10:25 a.m. on Bureau of Land Management land. It likely started last night from lightning. Two engine crews and two air tankers were working the fire. The several-acre fire was increasing in activity at the time of the crash but was not immediately threatening any structures.

Fire crews from northwestern Colorado have been working more than 30 lightning-started fires since Sunday. Most are small fires less than an acre. Crews are working four large fires:

The 27,000-acre **Mayberry Fire** 32 miles northwest of Craig is 50 percent contained. A heavy air tanker and two single engine air tankers supported the 77 firefighters working this fire. Full containment is currently expected on Thursday, and the fire is not expected to grow larger. It burned in sagebrush and tall grass on a mix of Bureau of Land Management and private lands. The one home and the 30 natural gas wells in the area have not been damaged. This fire started Sunday.

The **Prong Fire** jumped containment lines last night and grew several hundred acres to 5,150 acres. It's 23 miles northwest of Craig. Firefighters stopped its growth and are working on securing the firelines. The fire started Sunday and burned in sagebrush and grass on a mix of private and BLM lands. Moffat County Road 8 has been reopened.

The 950-acre **Lone Fire** started Sunday and is burning 15 miles north of Elk Springs in pinyon-juniper and sage on BLM and private land. It is 75 percent contained. Two homes are in the area but are not immediately threatened. Full containment is expected Thursday. Eleven firefighters are working this fire.

The 350-acre **Jordan Fire** started yesterday in the rugged BLM Windy Gulch Wilderness Study Area seven miles northwest of Meeker. The fire is burning in steep terrain covered with tall oak brush. Structure protection engines are in place as a precaution for homes along Strawberry Creek to the east of the fire. The twenty-one firefighters supported by three single-engine air tankers and a helicopter are working to keep the fire within set boundaries under a confinement strategy.

Fire crews and resources from Moffat County, the towns of Maybell and Meeker, State Forest Service, the BLM, U.S.Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service are working together to manager these fires.

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