



For immediate release  
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## **Firefighters Make Progress on Northwestern Colorado Fires Crash Investigation Continues**

CRAIG, Colo. – The cause of today's single engine air tanker crash 20 miles northwest of Meeker continues to be investigated. The single engine air tanker crashed about 3 p.m. today working the Flat Bush Fire.

The pilot was flown to Grand Junction with apparently minor injuries after walking away from the crash. Meeker Volunteer Fire and Ambulance responded and provided important assistance. More information about the crash and pilot will be released as it becomes available.

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 and were able to keep it less than 10 acres. Crews will return tomorrow to continue securing and patrolling the fireline.

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 75 percent contained, and full containment is expected Thursday. Thirty-eight firefighters worked the fire, which did not grow in size today. The fire started Sunday 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.

The **Prong Fire** grew several hundred acres to 5,150 acres last night. It is now 100 percent contained. The Prong Fire is 23 miles northwest of Craig. The fire started Sunday and burned in sagebrush and grass on a mix of private and BLM lands.

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. Nine firefighters are working this fire.

The 500-acre **Jordan Fire** started yesterday in the rugged BLM Windy Gulch Wilderness Study Area seven miles northwest of Meeker. It is 0 percent contained. 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 48 firefighters supported by two single-engine air tankers, a heavy air tanker and a helicopter are working to

keep the fire within set boundaries under a confinement strategy. An incident management team will assume management of this fire Thursday.

Fire crews and resources from Moffat County, Rio Blanco 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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