



*Loveland Fire Rescue Authority  
Community Safety Division  
410 East Fifth St.  
Loveland, CO. 80537*

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**For Immediate Release**

Date: Thursday, December 22, 2016, 2:20 p.m.  
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## **Bobcat Power Line Fire Update**

**Summary:**

At approximately 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2016, Loveland Fire Rescue Authority (LFRA) crews responded to a report of a wildland fire northwest of the Bobcat Ridge Natural Area, northwest of Loveland, which was named as the Bobcat Power Line Fire. Crews from LFRA and several surrounding agencies responded to the fire. Strong, erratic winds and remote access issues made the fire attack difficult, but conditions on Friday greatly improved, allowing the firefighters to achieve 100% containment. No structures were threatened, and no injuries were reported. The size of the fire has been estimated to have been 189 acres. The origin and cause of the fire is still under investigation, but all indications thus far indicate that it was accidental, and related to power line operations in the area. The fire was officially named the Bobcat Power Line Fire.

**Details:**

LFRA crews responded to a wildfire at approximately 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2016, northwest of the Bobcat Ridge Natural Area. The fire burned mostly in Fort Collins Open Space lands, and some National Forest area. No structures were threatened and no injuries were reported. There were no evacuation notices issued, as there never was any threat of the fire endangering any homes.

Fire behavior was significant Friday night, and crews we faced with rugged terrain, access issues, and strong, erratic winds, which eventually forced most of the firefighters away from the fire line that night. Crews focused on monitoring the fire overnight Thursday, and were prepared for any changes that might need additional tactics and/or resources. Conditions greatly improved on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, which allowed crews to resume fire attack and containment operations. The fire was 100% contained by approximately 4:00 p.m. on Friday.

Multiple agencies worked together on the fire, including LFRA, Larimer County Emergency Services, Larimer County Sheriff's Office (LCSO), US Forest Service, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Fort Collins Open Space Rangers, Berthoud Fire Protection District, Estes Valley Fire Protection District, Glen Haven Fire Area Department, Poudre Fire Authority, Rist Canyon Fire Department, Wellington Fire Protection District, and Windsor-Severance Fire Rescue. The incident command structure was a "unified command" between LFRA and LCSO.

On Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, there are 63 firefighters assigned to the fire, including 9 Type-6 engines (wildland brush trucks) and 5 utility vehicles. The cold weather and incoming snow later that night helped with fire containment and control. Since that time, crews have monitored the fire area and continued with mop-up operations, as needed. The official estimated measurement of the entire fire area was reported to be approximately 189 acres. The fire's origin and cause are still under investigation, but all indications are that the fire was accidental and related to power line operations in the area. No further updates are expected for this incident unless the final cause determination changes.

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