



Forest Service
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Wildfire Daily Updates

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Bankhead National Forest – Big Tree Wildfire, Sipsey Wilderness

Incident: Big Tree Wildfire
Released: 10/19/2015-Time: 9:15 a.m.

Summary - A 258-acre wildfire is burning in the Sipsey Wilderness of the Bankhead National Forest as of Oct. 19, 2015. Additional resources have been ordered to support the fire suppression efforts in the wilderness. U.S. Forest Service fire personnel are taking immediate action to contain the fire that has temporarily closed four trails leading into the Sipsey Wilderness. The public living near the Sipsey Wilderness may see an increase in smoke and Forest Service personnel. Hikers are asked to check the Forest Service websites, bulletin boards and contact the Bankhead District Office for a listing of open trails and status updates. The safety of the public and wildland firefighters is our number one priority.

Quick Facts

- Wildland fire type: Wildland Fire (Wilderness)
- Cause: Law Enforcement Officers are currently investigating
- Reported: Oct. 16 to Bankhead District Dispatch by hikers at 4:14 p.m.
- Location: Sipsey Wilderness in the Bankhead National Forest in northwest Alabama
- Acres involved now: **258 acres as of Oct. 19**
- Equipment: Hand crews, leaf blowers and a Type 3 helicopter. No heavy equipment used.
- Personnel: 38 single resources from various states –Alabama, North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee. One Hotshot Crew (15 person) from Virginia and an Initial Attack Crew from Asheville, NC.
- Strategy: Hand crews and leaf blowers are used to have less impact and maintain wilderness value.

Incident Command Post-Bankhead District Office, 1070 Highway 33, Double Springs, AL, Phone: 205-489-5111

