



# Cellar Mountain Fire WILDFIRE UPDATE

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/gwj/alerts-notice>

**Fire Information: 540-492-1901**  
Ted Coffman and Rebecca Robbins,  
Public Information Officers

*USDA Forest Service  
George Washington & Jefferson  
National Forests  
Glenwood and Pedlar Ranger  
Districts*

**Saturday, March 19, 2016  
10:30 AM**

<b>Current Status</b>	The Cellar Mountain Fire is located on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests within Saint Mary's Wilderness in Augusta County, VA approximately 10 miles east of the town of Raphine, and west of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Friday firefighters scouted, constructed and improved containment lines and conducted burn-out operations to protect private property. A helicopter dropped water to assist suppression efforts.
<b>Counties</b>	Augusta County, VA
<b>Estimated Acreage</b>	Approximately 550 acres
<b>Containment</b>	There is no estimate of containment at this time.
<b>Cause and Date Started</b>	The cause of this fire is under investigation. The fire was first reported at approximately 3:00 PM on Thursday, March 17, 2016.
<b>Resources on the Fire</b>	65 firefighters including two Hotshot handcrews, two firefighter squads, and two wildland engines.
<b>Cooperators</b>	Augusta County Fire-Rescue, Virginia Department of Forestry, and National Park Service - Blue Ridge Parkway
<b>Restrictions and Closures</b>	Use caution and obey all road and trail closures for your safety. Sections of the Coal Road (Forest Road #42) are temporarily closed both due to ongoing road work and fire activities. Saint Mary's Road (FR #41) is temporarily closed.  All trails within Saint Mary's Wilderness are temporarily closed, including: St. Mary's Trail (Forest Trail #500); St. Mary's Gorge Trail (FT #500B); Mine Bank Creek Trail (FT #500C); Mine Bank Mountain Trail (FT #503); Bald Mountain Overlook Trail (FT #504). Also closed are trailheads associated with these trails including: Lower St. Mary's trailhead at end of St. Mary's Road; Cellar Mountain trailhead on Coal Road (FR# 42); and Mine Bank trailhead at Blue Ridge Parkway.
<b>Plans for Today</b>	Firefighters will continue to establish and improve containment lines using existing trails and natural features where possible.
<b>Fire weather</b>	Today's high will be around 42, with rain and snow predicted. Winds are from the east at seven to 12 mph. Relative Humidity is up from yesterday with a minimum of 48%. Chance of precipitation is 80%.
<b>Other Fire Information</b>	The top priority of fire managers is firefighter and public safety. Driving visibility may be limited in the fire vicinity due to smoky conditions. Area residents and visitors may smell smoke overnight and for several days. The next Cellar Mtn Wildfire Update will be available by 8:00 PM on Saturday, March 19.