



# 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  
7:00 PM**

<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. Firefighters continued to improve containment lines until operations were suspended due to snowfall. Although the fire received snow, the snow will not put out the fire.
<b>Counties</b>	Augusta County, VA
<b>Estimated Acreage</b>	Approximately 842 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>	75 firefighters including two Hotshot handcrews, one handcrew, 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 Tomorrow</b>	Firefighters will assess conditions following Saturday's winter weather and continue to establish and improve containment lines using existing trails and natural features.
<b>Fire weather</b>	Tonight temperatures will stay around 36. Winds are from the northeast at 8 mph. Chance of rain or snow is 70%. Tomorrow's high temperature is 38 and northeast winds will be around 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.
<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 1:00 PM on Sunday, March 20.