



Cellar Mountain Fire WILDFIRE UPDATE

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

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

**Sunday, March 20, 2016
10:45 AM**

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| Current Status | 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 continue to improve containment lines as weather conditions permit. |
| Counties | Augusta County, VA |
| Estimated Acreage | Approximately 842 acres |
| Containment | The fire is approximately 5% contained. |
| Cause and Date Started | The cause of this fire is under investigation. The fire was first reported at approximately 3:00 PM on Thursday, March 17, 2016. |
| Resources on the Fire | 67 firefighters including two Hotshot handcrews, one handcrew, two firefighter squads, and two wildland engines. |
| Cooperators | Augusta County Fire-Rescue, Virginia Department of Forestry, and National Park Service - Blue Ridge Parkway |
| Restrictions and Closures | 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. |
| Plans for Today | Firefighters will assess conditions following Saturday's winter weather and continue to establish and improve containment lines using existing trails and natural features. |
| Fire weather | Today temperatures will stay in upper-30s under cloudy skies. Winds are from the northeast at six to eight mph. Chance of rain is 30%. |
| Other Fire Information | 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 Mountain Wildfire Update will be available by Monday, March 21. |