



## Southwest Area Incident Management Team Team 5 – Jeff Andrews – Incident Commander

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### Rattlesnake Fire Update, Friday, April 20, 2018

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### Containment Increases Despite High Winds

**Location:** Southeast of Whiteriver, AZ

**Cause:** Human Caused-under investigation

**Percent containment:** 20%

**Start date:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018

**Size:** 12,797 acres

**Vegetation:** Ponderosa pine and grass understory

**Resources:** Approximately 456 personnel

**Public Meeting:** There was a community meeting in Alpine last night at the Alpine Community Center where concerned citizens gathered to hear updates from agency leaders and the fire team, and it was well attended.

**Fire activity:** There is no updated acreage due to the windy conditions yesterday that prevented the infrared flight overnight. There was minimal growth on the southwest and southeastern flanks, and was comprised of low intensity ground fire and small clumps of trees burning. The fire did not make any more advances towards the communities of Alpine, Nutrioso or Round Valley, or cross any containment lines to the north. Active fire continued on the eastern edge near the 25 road, and on the northeast side of Reno lookout. Significant progress was made on fire line construction to the south along the Bear Wallow Wilderness boundary. Fire crews are tentatively planning a burnout operation, when weather conditions permit, to tie fire control lines into highway 191, east of the Rattlesnake fire. This potential may result in a temporary closure of highway 191, however, the public will be given notice of detour route(s) and road information will be posted on all of the fire information websites, social media and roadside signs.

**Values & Objectives:** Rattlesnake Fire suppression objectives include the completion of fire line around the entire perimeter, however all fire actions are assessed in relation to protecting values and minimizing impacts on cultural resources, wildlife, wilderness, watersheds, recreation areas, and natural resources.

**Safety:** Forest visitors are reminded to use caution when traveling along highway 191 and surrounding forest roads as smoke may reduce visibility in the area. There is also a large amount of emergency vehicle traffic in the vicinity of the fire, so please proceed with caution when traveling in the area.

**Weather:** The Red Flag Warning that was issued yesterday has expired and the weather outlook is predicting a dramatic change over the next few days. Today's forecast is calling for much cooler daytime highs in the upper forties to low fifties, with lighter winds out of the west and relative humidity in the 35-45% range. This evening there is a 20% chance of precipitation, some of which may be in the form of snow. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality monitor is up and running at the Alpine Fire Station, and air quality information can be found at <https://www.phoenixvis.net/PPMmain.aspx>.

**Closures:** Closures are in place on the San Carlos Apache Reservation, White Mountain Apache Reservation and the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. Visit the Rattlesnake Fire Inciweb page for details.

**Restrictions:** San Carlos Apache Reservation implemented Stage 2 Fire Restrictions on April 17, 2018. Modified Stage 2 Fire Restrictions continue on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. Campfires will NOT be allowed during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and debris burning is prohibited until further notice.

InciWeb <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5740> - BIA Fort Apache Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BIAFAAFireMgt/>

Nowhi ni' nlt'eego anłsih – Take care of our land