



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

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Rattlesnake Fire Update, Friday, April 27, 2018

Ground Firing Operations Completed at Rattlesnake Fire

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Location: Southeast of Whiteriver, AZ

Cause: Human caused-under investigation

Percent containment: 46%

Start date: Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Size: 24,273 acres

Vegetation: Ponderosa pine and grass understory

Resources: Approximately 570 personnel

Fire activity: Firefighters were successful in completing the ground firing operation to secure the Rattlesnake Fire containment lines. Aerial ignition of unburned fuel in interior islands may be implemented if needed today. Ground crews in the eastern side of the fire will continue to hold containment lines while mopping up hot spots. The western side of the fire is now in monitoring and patrol status. The spot fire identified last Tuesday has been successfully lined and mop up is continuing. Today there is a chance of dry lightning in the fire area. Initial attack firefighters will be in readiness if needed.

Fire Management Team Transition: Saturday command of Rattlesnake Fire will transfer at 6 pm from the Southwest Incident Management Team 5, Jeff Anderson-Incident Commander, to two local Incident Management Teams, one Management Team commanded by Chris Johnson, ITC3 from Alpine and the second Management Team Commanded by Keith Burnett ITC3 based in San Carlos.

Safety: Residents are reminded to drive with caution in the fire area due to increased fire traffic as crews are being demobed and headed home.

Weather: Changing weather will still challenge firefighters with wind shifting and gusts associated with thunderstorms. There is a 20% chance of precipitation and a 40% chance of lightning on Friday. Those numbers increase to 30% on Saturday. We expect smoke to drift north toward Eagar and Springerville.

Values: Resource advisors on the Rattlesnake Fire have many values at risk to consider, some of which include endangered species and aquatic life found only in local lakes and streams. These advisors work closely with fire managers so that they can employ fire suppression tactics to reduce impacts to these irreplaceable values.

Road and Area 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.

Fire Restrictions: Monday the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests entered into Stage 1 Fire Restrictions in order to reduce human-caused fires and protect public safety. 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.

InciWeb <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5740> - BIA Fort Apache Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BIAFAAFireMgt/> - Stage 1 Fire Restrictions <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/asnf/fire/?cid=fseprd538403> - Arizona Department of Environmental Quality <https://www.phoenixvis.net/PPMmain.aspx>

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