



**White Mountain Zone
Type 3 Incident Management Team
Chris Johnson – Incident Commander**

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Rattlesnake Fire Update, Thursday, May 3, 2018

Final Daily Update on Rattlesnake Fire

Lʼiish bitseghál kó bighą nagodʼi

Location: Southeast of Whiteriver, AZ

Cause: Human caused-under investigation

Percent containment: 86%

Start date: Wednesday 4-11-2018

Size: 26,072 acres

Vegetation: Ponderosa pine and grass understory

Resources: 179 Personnel

Fire activity: Cold wet weather contributed to minimal fire behavior yesterday as crews have largely shifted to repair, chipping, and clean-up. Numerous crews were released from the fire, many were re-assigned to other incidents. As fuels dry out over the weekend, fire activity will increase but is expected to remain well within the interior of the control lines. Friday, the Rattlesnake Fire will transition back to Forest Management. This will be the final daily update unless significant events occur.

Weather: A chance of precipitation and light winds will linger through today into tonight. Friday will bring a warming trend that will extend through the weekend with daytime temperatures reaching near 70 degrees and lows in the upper 30s / low 40s. Winds are expected to remain calm on Friday.

Safety: Firefighters and equipment remain in the area. Use caution when traveling on State Highway 191 past the fire zone. Remember, emergency equipment has the right of way. Area closures remain in effect for public safety. Hot pockets will linger in the fire area and shallow root systems of standing trees have burned making them prone to fall, especially in high winds.

Road and area closures: *Forest Road 25* remains closed along with additional closures on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, the San Carlos Apache Reservation, and the White Mountain Apache Reservation. Closures will remain in effect until fire lines and roads have been effectively rehabilitated and the area is deemed safe for public use. Contact the appropriate agency for more information.

Fire restrictions: In order to reduce human-caused fires and protect public safety, the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests is currently in Stage 1 Fire Restrictions and will transition into Stage 2 restrictions Friday, May 4, 2018. 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.

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