

# Wallow Fire Update

June 26, 2011 8:00 a.m.



## Fire Facts:

**Location:** Apache, Navajo, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, Fort Apache Indian Reservation, San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation, Arizona; Catron County, New Mexico

**Date Started:** 05/29/2011

**Cause:** Human – under investigation

**Size:** 538,043 acres total

**Percent Contained:** 77%

**Resources:** 14 Helicopter; 5 Air Tankers available;

134 Engines; 44 Water Tenders; 13 Dozers

**Injuries to Date:** 15

**Total Personnel:** 2,347

Includes 14 hotshot crews;

29 handcrews

**Residences:** 218 threatened; 32 destroyed;

5 damaged

**Commercial Property:** 39 threatened; 4 destroyed

**Outbuildings:** 128 threatened; 36 destroyed;

1 damaged

**Vehicles:** 1 destroyed

## Fire Update.

The fire will continue to back downhill into Strayhorse Creek and Blue Canyon. The focus of suppression effort in the southeast portion of the fire continues to be in the Blue River drainage with the objective to keep the fire south of Forest Road 205, west of Dry Blue Creek and the Blue River, North of Forest Road 475 north and east of US 191. The threat continues to residential, commercial and out buildings in the Blue area. Structure protection and patrolling of the line for hot spots in the vicinity of Luna continues. Of the total acres of the fire, 15,407 acres has burned in N.M.

The fire perimeter from US 191 west and continuing clockwise around the fire to Nutrioso, Ariz. has had crews working at least 300ft. into the fire from the perimeter extinguishing all visible smokes. Winds over the past several days have demonstrated the security of these lines along this portion of the fires edge. Firefighters continue patrolling and fire and smoke will be visible in scattered islands well within containment lines.

Elk are continuing to create a safety hazard as they are present on or near most of the highways and roads, especially at night and early morning. There has been at least a couple of accidents due to a vehicle hitting an elk.

Temperatures will continue to be hot and dry with a Red Flag Warning forecast for early afternoon on Sunday until 8 p.m. Sunday evening. Conditions will be mostly sunny, with a high near 98, with breezy conditions becoming west 17 -23 mph with gusts to 35 mph. Minimum afternoon relative humidity will range from 7-13 percent. There is a slight chance of thunderstorms and precipitation today. Tonight is expected to be mostly clear, with a low around 55 with a west southwest wind between 19-22 mph with gusts as high as 34 mph, then becoming calmer.

Field assessments documenting resource damages have been completed on Tribal lands and final reports are being prepared. Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team assessments continue and will result in an Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan, which will recommend priority actions that will be accomplished in the near future. The assessment process should be complete within two weeks. Longterm restoration and salvage needs will be addressed after the environmental analysis is finished. To learn more about BAER Teams, go to these sites: <http://tinyurl.com/6xd42mf>, <http://tinyurl.com/5v9p2h5>.

## **Special Information:**

- There will be a community meeting at the Blue School today, June 26 at 2 p.m.
- **Fourth of July fireworks at Sunrise Ski Area and Resort are cancelled.**

**Current Evacuations:** Evacuation for the Blue River community has been lifted for **local residents only**.

**Road Closures according to Arizona Department of Transportation:** <http://www.azdot.gov>

- US 191 is closed between Alpine and north of Clifton (milepost 176-253).
- SR 261 (mileposts 395-413) and SR 273 (mileposts 383-394), to Big Lake & Crescent Lake are closed.
- All Forest Service and private facilities inside the road closures are not available to the public

## Closures and Restrictions:

- **San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation:** Fire Restrictions and area closures remain in effect.  
**Apache – Sitgreaves National Forest:** The Springerville, Alpine, and Clifton Ranger Districts of the Forest remain under a forest closure until further notice. A closure order is in effect for portions of the Sitgreaves side of the National Forest. Contact the Arizona fire restrictions hotline for information at (877) 864-6985 or [www.publiclands.org/firenews/AZ.php](http://www.publiclands.org/firenews/AZ.php)  
For the Lakeside Ranger District with the exception of some recreation sites go to <http://ge.tt/8TsJNQ5>.  
**Gila National Forest:** A closure is in effect for the western portion of the Gila National Forest. Call (575) 388-8201, TTY (575) 388-8497 or see <http://www.fs.usda.gov/gila>.
- **Fort Apache Indian Reservation:** Partial area closures are in effect for the eastside of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. See <http://www.wmat.nsn.us/>

**The National Weather Service on potential flooding:** The Wallow Fire burned vast portions of the White Mountains including areas of steep terrain which will make numerous locations vulnerable to flash floods and debris flows even in moderate intensity (10 – 15 minutes) rains. Some area streams and rivers are likely to see flows beyond anything seen in decades if typical or above average rains occur. Residents should be aware that area roadways may become impassible due to mud, rock and debris slides or due to streams and washes overwhelming existing culverts and bridges.

**Public Safety:** Smoke from the ongoing wildfires in Ariz. will continue to impact residents in the Wallow Fire area including southwestern N.M. For more information, link to the smoke outlook for the most recent forecast posted at:

<http://smoke.airfire.org/sw-outlook> [the PDF of the smoke outlook], <http://smoke.airfire.org/sw-outlook/map> [the PNG map] and <http://smoke.airfire.org/sw-monitoring> [the PDF of the monitoring report]

- A Crisis Intervention Line (928) 333-2683 is available for residents suffering from the stress of living with fire danger.
- An Individual Assistance Service Center (IASC) is open daily, except Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Round Valley Public Library, 179 S Main, Eagar for all evacuated Arizonans to access information to assist in their personal recovery from the fire.
- For more safety information see: <http://tinyurl.com/6zvcrcck>.
- Apache County and local Fire Departments have begun identifying locations for staging of sandbags in anticipation of the monsoon season. More information will be provided as locations are confirmed.

For information and assistance for damaged homes and small businesses: go to <http://tinyurl.com/6a94bk5>

**Public Information:** The public may call the following numbers for area specific fire information:

- Fire information in Spanish: (877) 632-6678.
- Luna and Reserve, N.M., Alpine, Ariz.: (575) 533-6928.
- North and west sides of the fire, including Fort Apache Indian Reservation: (877) 701-8201 Hours: 8 am to 8 pm. Cellular One phone service: (928) 205-9884.
- South between the Black River and US 191, including the San Carlos Indian Reservation: (541) 670-0812. For entry into the San Carlos Apache Reservation closure area contact San Carlos Apache Recreation and Wildlife Department Dispatch at (928) 475-2236 for approval.
- **Website Info:** [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org) **Articles:** <http://tinyurl.com/6zvcrcck>, **Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/AS\\_NF](http://www.twitter.com/AS_NF) **Flickr (photos):** [www.flickr.com/apachesitgreavesnf](http://www.flickr.com/apachesitgreavesnf).

**Media:** Media should call the following numbers to coordinate interviews with the various areas of the fire:

- North and west side of the fire, including Fort Apache Indian Reservation: (877) 701-8201.
- East, Luna and Reserve, N.M., Alpine, Ariz.: (575) 533-6928.
- South, between the Black River and US 191, including the San Carlos Indian Reservation: (602) 803-4270.