

# Wallow Fire Update

June 24, 2011 6:00 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:** 534,639 acres total

**Percent Contained:** 67%

**Resources:** 15 Helicopter; 5 Air Tankers available; 154 Engines; 54 Water Tenders; 19 Dozers

**Injuries to Date:** 15

**Total Personnel:** 2,846

Includes 12 hotshot crews;

43 handcrews

**Residences:** 818 threatened; 32 destroyed;

5 damaged

**Commercial Property:** 79 threatened; 4 destroyed

**Outbuildings:** 228 threatened; 36 destroyed;

1 damaged

**Vehicles:** 1 destroyed

## Fire Update.

The dozer line in the Blue area is completed and last night crews established a hose line along the dozer line and are working towards the drainage. Good progress has been made in constructing the dozer line from East of Hwy 191 toward the Primitive Area boundary in the Strayhorse drainage area.

Warm temperatures and low humidity will result in continued active fire behavior. Timbered fuel types will maintain intensities through the night helping drive fire spread. Occasional torching is possible resulting in potential short range spotting supported by down slope winds.

Today's conditions are forecast to be similar to yesterday with breezy afternoon winds expected. Winds will become southwest at 10 mph increasing to 15-20 in the afternoon with gusts to 30 mph expected over parts of the fire. Temperatures will be in the 90's at 6,000 ft and relative humidity at 6-9%. A wind event is expected this weekend. This event is expected to test the lines along the eastern portion of the Wallow Fire. These conditions are similar to those that existed when the fire has made large runs.

Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team members continue working in the fire area evaluating soil and vegetation impacts from the fire and formulating plans to mitigate future damage. Plans are underway to obtain large quantities of straw and grass seed and to spread it over the most significantly damaged Forest Service lands prior to the monsoon season. To learn more about BAER Teams, go to these sites: <http://tinyurl.com/6xd42mf>, <http://tinyurl.com/5v9p2h5>.

Multiple cultural and archeological sites have been identified and the sites have been flagged and recorded. Firefighters are taking precautions to lessen impact on these sites and threatened and endangered species.

Power remains out in Hannagan Meadow and portions of the area north of the Blue River.

**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. This summer, all residents near streams, rivers, or steep burned hillsides should be alert to flooding and debris flows. 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 AZ 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], <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 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.

#### **Current Evacuations:**

- Evacuations remain in effect in areas north of the Blue River, AZ.

#### **For information for damage to homes and small business:**

- For information go to the following web link: <http://tinyurl.com/6a94bk5>

#### **Evacuee Information:**

- Evacuees from areas north of the Blue River may pick up their mail at the Alpine Post Office.

#### **Pre-Evacuation Alert:**

- A pre-evacuation alert continues in Apache County for Greens Peak, Hidden Meadows Lodge and surrounding areas.
- Residents in these communities are asked to remain prepared for evacuation.

#### **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.

#### **Closures and Restrictions:**

- **San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation:** Fire Restrictions and area closures remain in effect.
- **Apache – Sitgreaves National Forest:** The Springerville, Alpine, Clifton and Lakeside 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).
- **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/>.
- **Fourth of July Fireworks at Sun Rise Ski Area and Resort are Cancelled.**

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

- Fire information in Spanish: (877) 632-6678.
- Call Center: (928) 333-3412, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Luna and Reserve, N.M., Alpine, AZ: (575) 533-6928.
- North and west sides of the fire, including Fort Apache Indian Reservation: (877) 701-8201 Hours: 8AM to 8PM. 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, AZ: (575) 533-6928.
- South, between the Black River and US 191, including the San Carlos Indian Reservation: (602) 803-4270.