



TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

NEWS RELEASE

Tonto National Forest, 2324 East McDowell Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85006 www.fs.usda.gov/Tonto

For Immediate Release
September 2, 2011 – 2030 hrs.

Contact: Fire Information Officer
602-525-1042

Two fires being managed on the Globe Ranger District **Tonto National Forest** Update – 2030 hrs.

Globe, Ariz. (September 2, 2011 – 2030 hrs.) – Globe Ranger District fire specialists are currently managing two lightning-caused wildfires: the Frio (1,300 acres), in the Pinal Mountain range, and the 650 Fire, which began Aug. 28 seven miles north of Superior in the Superstition mountains on Montana Mountain.

The 650 fire has moved into the Superstition wilderness area and is around 3,000 acres in size, with backing to the south. The higher humidity level has slowed the spread of the fire to the northeast. Smoke and flames from the 650 fire may be visible to East Valley residents.

Personnel and equipment are assigned to these fires and fire management officials continue to be pleased with the fire behavior, direction and favorable weather conditions.

The Frio fire burn-out on Madera Peaks is being conducted around the electronics site, followed by clean-up activities.

Vistors and residents may see light-to-moderate smoke throughout the day, with the possibility of smoke drifting towards and settling in Globe and Miami.

“Current weather conditions are very favorable in helping the smoke ventilate more quickly than had these fires occurred later in the wildfire season,” observed Rick Reitz, Globe district ranger. “Still, the firefighters and community members are experiencing smoke effects. We ask for the patience and support of everyone as we manage these fires now which will help prevent catastrophic wildfires in the future when weather conditions are much less favorable.”

Due to current weather conditions, including monsoon humidity, these lightning-caused fires can be allowed to play their natural role in the ecosystem.

“In managing wildfires, firefighter, aviation and public safety are always the top priority,” stated Clay Templin, Fire Staff Officer for the forest. “We have a variety of management strategies to meet multiple objectives on the landscape. Depending on weather, fuel conditions, and terrain, tactics are implemented that meet suppression needs and reduce hazardous fuels. This reduction in fuels allows for regeneration of vegetation and improves both watersheds and wildlife habitat. All wildfires have suppression actions taken regardless of location.”

For further information, please call the Globe Ranger District at 928-402-6200. Residents can also stay updated on prescribed fires at www.fs.usda.gov/Tonto. To report a wildland fire, the fire emergency number is 866-746-6516, or dial 9-1-1.

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For general information on fire activity and restrictions in Arizona call toll free 877-864-6985, or visit the. **Southwest Coordination Center website:** <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/> or <http://www.publiclands.org/firenews/AZ.php>

Useful Websites:

National Incident Information System www.inciweb.org
Southwest Coordination Center: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/>
National Interagency Fire Center: www.nifc.gov
National Fire Plan: www.forestsandrangelands.gov
FireWise: www.firewise.org

ARIZONA Websites:

www.azfireinfo.com (fire prevention and restrictions)
www.publiclands.org/firenews/AZ.php (fire restrictions and other public lands information)
www.azsf.az.gov (wildfire information and Firewise)
www.azein.gov (Arizona Emergency Information Network for ALL hazard emergency and disaster information)

Fire Restriction Information: Toll free 1 (877) 864-6985

To report a wildfire, call 1-866-746-6516 or dial 911.