



TONTO NATIONAL FOREST
NEWS RELEASE

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

For Immediate Release
September 25, 2011 – 1000 hrs.

Contact: Fire Information Officer
602-525-1042

Frio fire on the Globe Ranger District
Tonto National Forest
1000 hrs.

Globe, Ariz. (September 25, 2011 – 1000 hrs.) – Globe Ranger District fire specialists continue to manage the lightning-caused Frio wildfire in the Pinal Mountain range.

The Frio fire, which began August 17, is approximately 3,400 acres and grew very slowly yesterday due to the increased humidity.

The fire is 90 percent contained, but due to lower humidity and the fuel type where it is now burning, it has been active over the last 36 hours and is putting up smoke which is visible in the area. Burning operations continue today to secure the eastern flank of the fire, using existing boundaries, such as Forest Road 651, to tie off the fire.

"Resources are assigned again today to ensure that we keep the fire where we want it to be, doing what we want it to do." Brad Johnson, Globe Ranger District spokesperson

"We predict that smoke will continue to be visible for the next several days. As fire activity and spread are reduced, smoke impacts will be lessened considerably. We thank the public for their patience and support as we finish this project which will considerably lessen the danger of catastrophic wildfire in the future."

"Firefighter and public safety are our primary concern in managing all incidents," emphasized Quentin Johnson, fire management officer. "That focus drives all our fire management strategy decisions. We continue to be pleased with the behavior, direction and favorable weather conditions on the Frio fire."

Natural landscapes in the Southwest are fire-adapted ecosystems: they need fire to thrive and flourish. Low-intensity, managed fires clean up forest understory, consume downed logs, branches, pine needles, and old stumps while reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Fire also returns nutrient-rich ash back to the soil, thus promoting the regeneration of native grasses and forbs in the landscape. These native grasses and forbs improve and enhance wildlife habitat.

For health information concerning smoke effects, please contact the Gila County Division of Health and Emergency Services, *5515 South Apache Ave, Suite 100, Globe, AZ 85501, (928) 425-3231 ext.8888.*

For incident updates, please contact the Globe Ranger District administrative offices at 928-402-6200. Incident updates are being maintained at the **National Incident Information System website:** www.inciweb.org

Residents can also stay updated on 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.