



U.S. Forest Service
Coconino National Forest
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News Release



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Tinder fire update: Final news update from the Tinder Fire IMT

HAPPY JACK, Ariz., May 8, 2018, For Immediate Release – The potential for increased wildfire activity still exists throughout the Tinder Fire area, as windy and dry conditions will increase and existing pockets of fuel such as logs and stumps continue to burn within the fire perimeter and some segregated canyon areas.

The Tinder Fire has had no injuries resulting in lost work time, as there is a constant focus on public and firefighter safety. Part of this focus includes keeping firefighters from working in steep, rocky canyon terrain. As a result, there will be smoldering stumps, logs and root bundles left to burn out which don't pose a risk of spreading since the adjoining fuels are already consumed. This smoldering may be visible until a significant, extended rainfall suppresses them. It is not necessary to report smoke and flames from these sources of fuel.

Today's weather will be the first day in several days the fire has had clear skies and warm temperatures over it. With the warming temperatures and direct sunlight on the forest fuels, the public should expect an increase in smoke. Southwest winds are predicted to move smoke to the northeast toward Winslow and will impact Blue Ridge Communities during evening hours. Tomorrow's weather pattern should stay the same.

Fire activity may increase Thursday and more likely on Friday as local winds will begin to increase. However, a Type III team is in place and will continue to patrol, mop-up and suppress active fire edges.

Tinder Fire Summary

Date/Time Reported: April 27, 2018 at 11:43 a.m. by Moqui Tower lookout.

Origin Location: Origin and Cause Investigators determined that the fire originated in the East Clear Creek drainage approximately 1 mile downstream from Forest Road 95. Forest Road 95 runs north-south and is located approximately 1.5 miles east of C.C. Cragin Reservoir: [34°33'26.8"N 111°09'41.4"W](#)

Current Size: 16,309 acres.

Topography & Fuels: Steep rocky canyons and cliffs, burning in grass and understory.

Cause: Abandoned Illegal Campfire.

Containment: 79%.

Current Resources: 125 personnel including three crews, one helicopter, six engines, three dozers and other support personnel.

Resources En Route: None; Additional resources will be ordered if necessary.

Structures Lost: 33 primary residences, 54 minor structures.

Structures Threatened: None.

Evacuations: None.

Injuries: None.

Closures & Restrictions: A large area around the wildfire is currently under a **Closure Order**, which prohibits anyone from entering the area other than authorized personnel such as first responders and firefighting personnel. For details regarding this Closure Order, please see for the Coconino National Forest Orders website at <https://bit.ly/2KKx380>. Portions of the Arizona Trail in the closure area are closed until further notice. A Federal Aviation Administration temporary flight restriction remains in place over the area, no Drones or unmanned aircraft systems may be operated near the fire. However, a safe and scenic detour has been established, so please contact the Mogollon Rim Ranger Station at (928) 477-2255 for details. Additionally, **Stage II Fire Restrictions** are in effect across the entire Coconino National Forest, which prohibit a list of activities. Details of these prohibitions can be found online at <https://bit.ly/2rqSQJF>.

Smoke Impacts: Internal smoldering will continue to produce residual smoke. South/southwest winds will produce smoke impacts to Winslow and Blue Ridge communities during the day. In the evening hours smoke will likely impact Blue Ridge communities, drain into canyon areas, possibly impacting areas such as Strawberry, Payson and the Verde Valley.

Investigation Contacts: If anyone was in the area of Forest Road 95 or East Clear Creek near the origin of the Tinder Fire on April 26 or 27 and has information that could help this investigation, please contact Coconino National Forest Law Enforcement at (928) 527-3511.

Tinder Fire Information Resources:

- **The U.S. Forest Service BAER program**, please visit <https://bit.ly/2rs80xr>.
- **Cococino National Forest, Mogollon Rim Ranger District**, (928) 477-2255
- **InciWeb:** <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5763/>.
- **Coconino County Recovery Info:** (928) 213-2990 or <https://www.coconino.az.gov/tinderfirerecovery>
- **Media members only:** (928) 224-8306.

Although fire operations will continue, @TinderFireInfo social media accounts, tinderfireinfo@gmail.com, and the Tinder Fire Info phone line will not be monitored.



Flagstaff Ranger Station: (928) 526-0866
Mogollon Rim Ranger Station: (928) 477-2255
Red Rock Ranger Station: (928) 282-4119



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