



U.S. Forest Service
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News Release

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Managed Fires Reduce the Risk of Severe Fire

Flagstaff, Ariz., June 19, 2015, For Immediate Release — The Horse Tank and Camillo Fires on the Coconino National Forest were started by lightning and are now managed by Forest and Fire Officials to reduce fuel accumulation and promote forest health. The unseasonably wet spring and summer have led to higher fuel moistures which have made it possible to effectively and safely manage these wildfires. **Starting tomorrow, new closures will be in effect around the Camillo Fire for public and firefighter safety.**

CAMILLO FIRE OVERVIEW

Yesterday: Personnel continued to bring fire south with low severity fire ignitions along the KV high voltage WAPA power lines south of FR 124. Crews conducted burnout operations along the top of ridgelines from the Junction of Lake Mary Road and FR 125 south, then allowed fire to slowly back its' way downhill toward Lake Mary Road creating a secure fire perimeter along the highway.

Today: Crews will continue conducting burnout operations; this tactic allows fire managers to determine how and where the fire moves through the forest. Crews are preparing for future ignitions and are working closely with Forest Service specialists to protect heritage sites and wildlife habitat in the area.

Smoke: The majority of smoke will disperse to the northeast. It is not expected to impact Flagstaff, but will be visible from town. Smoke will be noticeable on Forest Road 125, Lake Mary Road (Forest Highway 3), and in Mormon Lake Village overnight. Drive with caution.

Closures: Lands, roads, and trails in the vicinity of Little Mormon Mountain will be closed starting Saturday, June 20. This includes Forest Roads 92, 124, and a portion of 82. The area on the south side of FR 125 will be closed, but the area north of the road as well as FR 125 itself will remain open with Access to Kinnikinick Lake. The Gooseberry Springs Trailhead and a portion of the Arizona Trail will also be closed. See the [full closure order and map](#) on Inciweb. Delays are possible along FR 125 and FH 3 because of fire personnel and equipment in the area.

Size: 3,900 acres (planning area is approximately 46,000 acres)

Start Date: June 14, 2015

Location: 20 miles south of Flagstaff, just southeast of Mormon Lake.

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HORSE TANK FIRE OVERVIEW

Yesterday: No growth. Crews monitored fire behavior and activity, allowing fire to play its natural role in the forest ecosystem.

Today: Fire continues to smolder and creep in interior pockets of unburned fuels producing less smoke.

Smoke: Visible from Highways 260 and 87, I-17, Payson, Pine, Strawberry, Blue Ridge and the Verde Valley.

Closures: Forest Roads 9366R, 9384A, 9381, 609 and a portion of 9361A.

Size: 1,518 acres (planning area is approximately 5,000 acres)

Start Date: June 6, 2015

Location: Six miles north of Strawberry, south of Highway 260 near the junction with Hwy 87

Motorists should **be cautious while traveling in the vicinity of these fires, especially on Highway 260, State Route 87, and Lake Mary Road (Forest Highway 3)**. Smoke may reduce visibility and fire personnel will be working on and near the roads throughout the day. No closures to these roads are anticipated, but delays are possible.

The Horse Tank and Camillo Fires are fulfilling their natural and crucial role in forest health and fuels reduction. **The forest needs frequent, low severity fire** to restore wildlife habitat, promote healthy vegetation, reduce fuels and the risk of severe fire, and create safer conditions for residents, visitors, and firefighters.

Find online information on Inciweb at www.inciweb.nwccg.gov. Follow the forest on Twitter at www.twitter.com/coconinonf (@CoconinoNF). Photos will be available on the forest Flickr site at www.flickr.com/coconinonationalforest. The public can also call the Coconino National Forest at 928-527-3600 during regular business hours.

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