



U.S. Forest Service
Coconino National Forest
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News Release



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Tinder fire update: Firefighters staged for structure protection

HAPPY JACK, Ariz., May 11, 2018, For Immediate Release – About a hundred hard-working firefighters are staged to support suppression of any part of the fire trying to leave the protection lines in the 50 mph wind gusts Friday near the Blue Ridge communities at the Tinder Fire.

The local National Weather Service has predicted a breezy day, averaging 20 mph, with high gusts. The number of personnel assigned to the fire remain at approximately 100, with a dozer being the only resource leaving the fire operation since yesterday.

Southwest winds are predicted to move smoke to the northeast toward Winslow and if the wind subsides during evening hours the smoke may impact Blue Ridge Communities.

The public will likely see residual smoke from this fire for several weeks, as tree stumps and other forest fuels continue to smolder until a significant amount of rainfall extinguishes them completely.

Coconino County has issued a “Set” stage for the southeastern-most division of Mogollon Ranch, and local residents are reminded to remain prepared for any “Ready, Set & Go” event which could be implemented by Coconino County in the case of an emergency evacuation.

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 percent.

Current Resources: 100 personnel including two crews, three helicopters, six engines, one 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>.
- **A Federal Aviation Administration temporary flight restriction** remains in place over the area which prohibits Drones and unmanned aircraft systems from entering the area.
- 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.

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



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