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# News Release

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## Monsoon Activity - A Blessing and A Curse

**Fredonia, Ariz., Aug. 10, 2018 — For Immediate Release.** A slight increase in moisture and monsoon activity on the Cat and Stina Fires occurred yesterday and is expected today as well. This is a blessing and a curse for firefighters. Incident Commander Mike Uebel notes that moisture can moderate fire behavior, but strong downdrafts can make for erratic fire behavior and fire movement on areas of the fires not receiving moisture.

“Downdrafts from thunderstorms are a huge watch out situation for firefighters. The fire can move rapidly and in a completely different direction within a few minutes time,” stated Uebel. Uebel again stressed the need for the public to respect the closure areas that are in place because of the dangerous conditions with the fire and thunderstorms.

### **Resources:**

4 20-person hotshot crews  
5 fire engines  
1 bulldozer  
Miscellaneous overhead

### **Cat Fire Overview**

**Date reported:** August 6, 2018

**Cause:** Lightning

**Size:** 1,300 acres (change in fire size is due to more accurate mapping)

**Location:** The Cat Fire is about 25 miles southeast of Jacob Lake in the Saddle Mountain Wilderness on the North Kaibab Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest.

**Fuel:** Mixed conifer, ponderosa pine and pinyon-juniper/mountain mahogany.

**Weather:** A slight increase in moisture will move into the fire area today.

**Strategy:** Full suppression

**Situational update:** Containment actions are focused on the western side of the fire as it moves closer to Forest Road 219.

**Closures:** Fire management resources have closed all roads within the planning area boundary, which is Forest Roads 213 and 220 on the north, FR 610 on the east and south, and House Rock Valley Road 8910 on the east.

The following trails are closed: Arizona Trail from FR 213 to FR 610, North Canyon Trail, South Canyon Trail and Pt. Imperial and Nankoweap Trails, which are both located on Kaibab National Forest and Grand Canyon National Park land. The closure will remain in effect until it is considered safe to enter the area.

### **Stina Fire Overview**

**Start date:** July 26, 2018

**Cause:** Lightning

**Size:** 1,200 acres

**Location:** The Stina Fire is 23 miles southwest of Jacob Lake and about 2 miles east of Fire Point on the North Kaibab Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest.

**Fuel:** Ponderosa pine, aspen and mixed conifer

**Weather:** A slight increase in moisture will move into the fire area today.

**Strategy:** Full suppression

**Situational Update:** The fire has dropped off the rim in Quaking Aspen Canyon and is active along all flanks. Limited moisture fell on the south portion of the fire, but no moisture fell on the northern half of the fire. The plan for today is to continue to hold the line on the northern edge of the fire, assess the western edge of the fire that is below the rim, and continue to prepare firelines on the northeast flank of the fire.

**Closures:** A closure is in effect for Forest Roads 223 (going to Fire Point), 268, 206, 271, 609, 250 road south of the 250/294 junction, a portion of the 239 and all Rainbow Rim trails and scenic viewpoints south of Locust Point. The trail between Locust Point and Parissawampitts Point will remain open for forest visitors. The closure order will remain in place until it is considered safe to enter the area.

**Smoke:** Smoke is visible on both the North and South Rims of the park, and there is a regional haze present in surrounding communities from multiple wildfires in the West. Individuals sensitive to smoke can learn how to help protect their health by visiting the Coconino County Public Health Services District website at: <http://bit.ly/SmokeHealthAwareness>.

For fire information on the Kaibab National Forest, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab](http://www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab) and Inciweb under the name of the fire at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov> or visit us on Facebook and Twitter @KaibabNF or call (928) 635-8311 for recorded fire information.

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