



# Wallow Fire Update



**For Immediate Release:** June 10, 2011 09:00a.m.

**Fire Information:** 928-333-3412 (Daily from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.)

**Website Info:** [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org) **Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/AS\\_NF](http://www.twitter.com/AS_NF)

**Flickr (photos):** [www.flickr.com/apachesitgreavesnf](http://www.flickr.com/apachesitgreavesnf)

**Date Started:** 5/29/2011

**Location:** south and west of Alpine, Arizona

**Cause:** Human – under investigation

**Size:** 408,887ac based on last night's infrared data

**Percent Contained:** 5%

**Residences:** 4,018 threatened; 67 lost:1 damaged

**Number of Personnel:** Approximately 3,137

Including 19 hotshot crews and 45 hand crews

**Equipment:** 17 dozers, 221 engines, 66 watertenders

**Aircraft:** 14 helicopters

**Injuries to Date:** 3

**Other:** 24 non-residential structures destroyed, 1 truck

## Area Command Team 3 lead by Jim Loach is now managing the Wallow Fire

The Wallow Fire Structure Assessment Team has completed its work in Greer. The team reports that 22 homes were destroyed, 5 homes damaged and 24 outbuildings and 1 truck destroyed. The Apache County Sheriff is still in the process of tracking and notifying the property owners who were affected.

- Media should call 480-331-9554 to coordinate interviews.
- The Blue Ridge evacuation center phone number is 602-336-6660
- There will be a media briefing tonight at 9:00 p.m. at the Rest Stop on Hwy 60, north of Springerville.
- There will be a community meeting tonight at 6:00 p.m. at the Blue Ridge High School Auditorium at Pinetop-Lakeside.

## Fire Update

Last evening, it was reported that the fire was 5% contained on the north side above Greer. Last night's operational period included burnout operations, structure protection, patrolling for spot fires, and mop up in the Alpine area. The predicted weather today is expected to allow firefighters to continue burnout operations. Today's operational period also includes, building fireline using handcrews & dozers around Springerville and Eager, structure protection, patrolling for spot fires and mop up. The DC-10 air tanker was used during yesterday's operations in the area of Greer.

Multiple jurisdictions of Law Enforcement are working with the incident to ensure public and firefighter safety, as well, as protection of property during evacuations.

## Current Evacuations

- Full evacuation of Eager and Springerville. The evacuations were ordered by the Apache County Sheriff's Office on June 8 around 4:00 p.m.
- Sunrise, Greer, Blue River, Alpine, Nutrioso, and the following subdivisions along highways 180/191: Escudilla Mountain Estates, Bonita, White Mtn. Acres, and the H-V Ranch. This area includes County Road (CR) 4000, CR 4001, and CR 4225.
- The evacuation center is located at Blue Ridge High School, 1200 W. White Mtn. Blvd., Pinetop/Lakeside.

### **Pre-Evacuation Alert**

- A pre-evacuation alert has been issued by Apache County for Greens Peak, Hidden Meadows Lodge and the surrounding areas.
- A pre-evacuation alert has been issued by Catron County Sheriff's Office for Luna, New Mexico.
- Residents in the communities affected by this fire are asked to remain prepared in the event an order is needed.

Residents with livestock or animals that need care should contact the Apache County Sheriff's Office (928) 337-4321 or the Greenlee County Sheriff's Office (928) 865-4149.

### **Road Closures according to Arizona Department of Transportation: <http://www.azdot.gov>**

- State Route 373, a 4.5 mile-long highway that connects the town of Greer in eastern Arizona with SR 260 west of Eagar, is closed.
- US 191 is closed between Alpine and north of Clifton (mileposts 176-253).
- State Routes 261 and 273, the main access roads to Big Lake and Crescent Lake in the White Mountains, are closed. SR 261 is closed starting approximately seven miles south of SR 260 to Crescent Lake (mileposts 395-413) and SR 273 is closed between the SR 260 junction and to the SR 261 junction (mileposts 378-394).
- US 180 is closed between the SR 260 junction near Eagar and the New Mexico state line (mileposts 403-433).

### **Closures**

Due to extreme fire conditions, the Apache National Forest is closed to all public entry. See website for closure order details. Please see the Forest website for more information:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/>.

**Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Fire Restrictions:** A temporary emergency closure order was issued effective June 3 at 12:00 p.m. (noon). For more information, please call the Arizona fire restrictions hotline 1-877-864-6985 or visit <http://www.publiclands.org/firenews/AZ.php>.

### **Public Information**

Public information will continue to be available by Twitter, Flickr, [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org), regular email updates as well as by phone at (928) 333-3412, (702) 308-3238, (702) 308-3357, or (702) 308-8227. Information will also be available at the evacuation center located at Blue Ridge High School in Pinetop/Lake Side. A community meeting was held at the Blue Ridge High School and was recorded by City 4 TV. Interested parties can view the recording at [www.showlowtv.com](http://www.showlowtv.com).

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