



For Immediate Release: May 29, 2012 8:00 a.m.

# Whitewater-Baldy Complex Update

Southwest Area Type 1 Incident Management Team  
Incident Commander: Tony Sciacca



**Fire Information: 575-533-6901, 575-533-6053** (Daily from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.)

**Email:** whitewaterfire@gmail.com

**Website:** <http://inciweb.org/incident/2870/>

**Flickr (photos and maps):** <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gilaforest>

## **Fire Facts:**

**Date Started:** 05/16/2012

**Location:** Approximately 15 miles E of Glenwood, NM

**Cause:** Lightning

**Size:** 152,012 acres

**Percent Contained:** 0

**Number of Personnel:** 1,112 personnel including  
14 hotshot crews, 13 hand crews

**Equipment:** 49 Engines, 23 Water Tenders, 7 Dozers

**Aircraft:** 9 Helicopters

**Injuries to Date:** Five

## **Special Announcement**

A community meeting will be held tonight, May 29, at 6:00 pm at the Glenwood Community Center. The incident management team will provide updates on strategies and tactics for suppressing the Whitewater-Baldy Fire.

## **General Information/Announcements:**

Most of the fire perimeter continues to experience active burning conditions. Flames were visible from Highway 180 in the vicinity of Haystack Mountain when fire established itself in drainages and began running up slope. Aerial ignitions were used to slow the rate of fire advancement in this area.

A decrease in extreme fire behavior yesterday afforded firefighters the opportunity to reinforce fire lines using burnout operations along parts on the west, north and northeast sections of the fire. The smoke inversion that was experienced all around the fire area yesterday is expected to be in place this morning before lifting mid-to-late morning.

## **Closures/Advisories:**

Forest Road 141 at the old sawmill

Forest Road 28 at Forest Road 94 junction (Collins Park)

State Route 159 at Whitewater Mesa

Forest Road 150 and Forest Road 142 junction (Beaverhead Work Center)

The Gila National Forest closed the Catwalk National Recreation Trail until further notice. Please visit the Gila National Forest Website at [www.fs.usda.gov/gila](http://www.fs.usda.gov/gila) for further details on this closure.

Before a wildfire approaches your home, evacuate your pets and all family members who are not essential to preparing the home. Anyone with medical or physical limitations and the young and elderly should be evacuated immediately. Remember the "P's of Evacuation"; People, Pets, Prescriptions, Papers, Pictures and Personal Computer. Refer to [www.wildlandfirersg.org](http://www.wildlandfirersg.org) and [www.nmfireinfo.com](http://www.nmfireinfo.com) for additional information on emergency evacuations. Also, go to [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org) and follow the link to homeowners to find interactive

modules, videos, games and quizzes to learn about how wildfires behave and what you can do to make your home safer.

**Today's Planned Activities:**

Structure protection and line prep will continue in the subdivision of Willow Creek. Crews will continue reinforcing burnout lines that were established yesterday around Mogollon. Last night's more favorable weather conditions allowed firefighters to reinforce fire lines along Forest Road 141. The extremely low humidities will continue to challenge firefighters today as they continue firing activities.

**Public Safety Message:**

Temperatures continue rising and humidities are dropping in southwest New Mexico. Everyone is advised to take all necessary precautions when spending any time outdoors. This includes sunscreen and hydration. See [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/outdoor\\_spot/](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/outdoor_spot/) for outdoor safety tips.

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