

Mike Johnson – Chief Deputy
Sarah White – Chief Administrative Officer
Travis Baxley – Task Force Commander
Tim Scott – Lt. Northern District
Virgil Dodd – Lt. Southern District



Matthew Binney - Undersheriff
Justin Solberg – Jail Commander
Dennis Newman – Lieutenant
Erich Kenney – Lieutenant
Jared Osborn – Lieutenant

Office of
Sheriff of Gila County
J. Adam Shepherd

Press Release
June 29, 2021

Sheriff J. Adam Shepherd would like to release the following information regarding the areas of Pine, Strawberry and Hunt Ranch due to the Backbone Fire.

The Gila County Sheriff's Office will be moving the areas of Pine, Strawberry and Hunt Ranch from SET to READY status at 10 am today. This decision was reached with information from the Southwest Team #1 in coordination with the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Shepherd would like to thank all the residents who live in the affected areas for their cooperation and understanding during this event. We understand how hard it is to leave your home for an extended period while not knowing what did or could happen. Your cooperation and patience were appreciated, and we are glad to have you back home.

Sheriff Shepherd would like to thank the Payson Police Department, Arizona Department of Public Safety, Arizona Department of Transportation, Payson Posse, Tonto Rim Search and Rescue, Coconino County Sheriff's Office, Coconino County Search and Rescue and the Pine/Strawberry Fire Department. Their cooperative assistance in the evacuation, patrol, and reentry of the citizens of Pine, Strawberry and Hunt ranch area was invaluable.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to Uncle Toms/Pine Ice for your support for all the first responders during the evacuation.

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