



WHITE MOUNTAIN ZONE Incident Management Team Ben Plumb – Incident Commander



Public Information Officer: 928-245-1585

Inciweb

Firefighters Gaining Ground On McDonald Tank Fire

McDonald Tank Fire: Monday, May 31, 2021

Location of Origin: 25 miles southeast of Whiteriver, Arizona

Start Date: May 23, 2021 **Size:** 3,550 Acres

Cause: Under investigation **Percent Contained:** 58

Personnel: 167 **Fuels:** Timber, Brush, Tall Grass

Resources Assigned: 4 type 6 Engines, 1 type 3 Engine, 3 Interagency Hotshot Crews, 1 type 2 Crew, 1 type 2 Initial Attack Crew, 5 Water Tenders, 1 type 1 Helicopter, 1 type 3 Helicopter, 2 Dozers, and other miscellaneous incident management overhead.

Operations: Firefighters were able to accomplish additional containment yesterday and were successful in strengthening and holding control lines. Today crews will continue mopping up, assessing threats, and patrolling the perimeter to mitigate any threats to the fire lines. One of the top priorities for the White Mountain Zone Team is to be good stewards of the land while operating on wildland fire assignments. A key component of this is managing the incident in a manner that is environmentally responsible. During this incident a recycling plan was put into place to process cardboard, plastic bottles, batteries and various other products that were generated by the hundreds of firefighting personnel.

Alerts: The Fort Apache Indian Reservation has enacted stage 2 fire restrictions, prohibiting all campfires from 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. The San Carlos Apache Tribe initiated modified stage 2 fire restrictions, prohibiting all campfires from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Closures: To ensure the safety for both firefighters and the public, the junction at Y70/Y30, the Y40/Y70 junction, and everything south of Maverick and Tonto Lake is temporarily closed. The [Malay Gap Management Unit](#) on the San Carlos Apache reservation is closed.

Safety: Smoke may be visible along U.S. 260 and 60 and in nearby communities to the north and north-east. Smoke-sensitive individuals and people with respiratory or heart disease are encouraged to take precautionary measures.

Weather: Today's forecast is calling for mostly cloudy skies with a 20% chance of rain and possible dry lightning, and a high near 80 degrees.

Values at risk: The McDonald Tank fire area includes important lands to the White Mountain Apache people. Firefighters are working to protect the Ten O' Diamonds Ranch House, the Paddy Creek Ranch, commercial timberlands, critical watersheds, riparian areas, rangelands, and recreation and wilderness areas.

Official fire information can be found on these sites.

- Inciweb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7501/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BIAFAAFireMgt/>
- Apache-Sitgreaves website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/news/asnf/news-events>
- ADEQ Air Quality Information: <https://azdeq.gov/node/7077>