



WHITE MOUNTAIN ZONE Incident Management Team Ben Plumb – Incident Commander



Public Information Officer: 928-245-1585

Inciweb

McDonald Tank Fire Transitions Command Today

McDonald Tank Fire: Tuesday, June 1, 2021

Location of Origin: 25 miles southeast of Whiteriver, Arizona

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

Cause: Under investigation **Percent Contained:** 66

Personnel: 115 **Fuels:** Timber, Brush, Tall Grass

Resources Assigned: 2 type 6 Engines, 1 type 3 Engine, 2 Hand Crews, 1 Water Tender, 1 type 1 Helicopter, 1 type 3 Helicopter, and other miscellaneous incident management overhead.

Transition: The McDonald Tank fire started on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation on May 23, 2021. Conditions at the time were very dry and the fire quickly grew beyond the capacity of available firefighting resources under the command of a Type 4 organization. On May 25 the White Mountain Zone Type 3 Incident Management Team assumed command of the fire, led by Incident Commander Ben Plumb. Today the fire will transition back to a Type 4 fire organization led by Incident Commander Carlton Guseyen. This is the final update from the White Mountain Zone Type 3 Incident Management Team unless conditions worsen, or factors determine otherwise.

Operations: The forecasted thunderstorms and the potential for dry lightning may create strong, gusty winds which could affect fire behavior and have the potential to threaten containment lines. Fire crews will continue to patrol perimeters, mop up and mitigate any threats to the containment lines.

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: 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. Smoke-sensitive individuals and people with respiratory or heart disease are encouraged to take precautionary measures.

Weather: The chance for showers and storms will continue today with a 40% chance of precipitation and a high of 75 degrees.

Values at risk: Firefighters will continue to work to protect 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>