



News Release

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Locust Fire update

Fredonia, Ariz., June 24, 2015 – During the last 24-hour operational period, North Zone firefighters continued to monitor weather, fire behavior and fire progression, as well as scout and prepare for firing opportunities along the perimeter boundaries of the Locust Fire being managed to improve forest health on the Kaibab Plateau.

In anticipation of predicted thunderstorm activity later in the week, firefighters are using burnout operations to manage risk. This firing technique allows firefighters to add sufficient depth to control lines in order to ensure the fire remains within the established boundaries by reinforcing perimeter lines in anticipation of higher winds and the potential for increased fire behavior.

“Burnout operations allow us to manage risk by securing perimeter boundaries and reducing the overall complexity of the main fire,” said Dave Robinson, North Zone Fuels Specialist. “Burnout operations allow us to secure our lines and remove fuels between control lines and the advancing flaming front.”

Fire Name/Date Started: Locust Fire; discovered by fire personnel on June 15 at approximately noon during an aerial reconnaissance flight.

Location: North Kaibab Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest: located in the southwestern portion of the district near Locust Point near the Rainbow Rim Trail.

Cause: Lightning

Fuels: Ponderosa pine, aspen and pine litter

Smoke: Smoke may be visible from Arizona Highway 67 and Highway 89A, Rainbow Rim, and some interior Forest Service roads

Size: 573 acres

Resources Committed: 113 personnel

Closures: No road/trail closures are in effect. Forest Service roads remain open; however, hazard signs are posted, and motorists should exercise caution when visiting the area.

Get fire activity updates and maps 24 hours-a-day:

Fire Information Line: 928-635-8311

Inciweb: inciweb.nwcg.gov

Text Message: text ‘follow kaibabnf’ to 40404

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