

Fire Information: (575)258-6900

www.inciweb.org

nmfireinfo.com



Little Bear Fire June 16, 2012 – 9 p.m.

Rain Falls on The Little Bear Fire

Start Time/Date: Monday, June 4, 2012
Location: Smokey Bear Ranger District, Lincoln NF, including White Mountain Wilderness
Cause: Lightning
Fuels: Mixed conifer, ponderosa pine
Size: approx. 38,133 acres
Containment: 60 %
Resources Committed: Personnel: 1,318; crews: 10 Type 1, 21 Type 2; engines: 94; helicopters: 8 Type 1
3 Type 2, 2 Type 3; dozers: 2; water tenders: 20
Today's weather: 70 degrees, relative humidity 32%, wind SSE 10-20 mph gusting to 28 mph
Injuries: 3
Structures destroyed: 254 (242 residential & commercial structures and 12 outbuildings)
Road Closures: NM 532 (Ski Run Road) from NM 48 junction to Forest Road 127A is *open to residents only*
Area Closures: The entire White Mountain Wilderness, and that portion of the Smokey Bear District south of US 380 to the Mescalero Apache Reservation boundary including a large area east and north of Ruidoso to the south boundary of the Fort Stanton Recreation Area

Summary: Afternoon thunder storms forced firefighters off the line this afternoon, and flood warnings were issued across Lincoln County. Precipitation on the fire ranged from a .1 inch to .75 inch. Crews accomplished some line preparation on the northwest side prior to the rain, while firefighters chipped woody material on the north side. Patrol and mop up continued around the remainder of the fire until crews were shuttled to safety ahead of the storm. Release of excess resources has begun, making these resources available for other assignments.

The damage assessment team was able to access more of the burn area in the last two days, and has confirmed the destruction of twenty more structures, bringing the total to 254.

All subdivisions except Angus and Bonita Park are now open. *Ski Run Road and Bonita Lake are open to residents only.* Residents returning to their homes should be alert for fire vehicle traffic, and wet or damaged roads as a result of this afternoon's storms.

Meetings: Daily community meetings are no longer scheduled. Additional meetings will be announced on an as needed basis.

Evacuations: All campgrounds west of Bonito Lake; Angus and Bonita Park

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Page 2

Shelters: Ruidoso High School at 125 Warrior Road, and Trinity Baptist Church in Capitan. **Pets and livestock** may be taken to Pet Paradise in La Luz (575-434-1784), Otero County fairgrounds in Alamogordo (575-434-0788, 575-491-7553, or 575-491-4643), Lincoln County fairgrounds in Capitan (575-808-2814), Humane Society of Lincoln County in Ruidoso (575-257-9841 or 575-378-1039), Ruidoso Animal Clinic (575-257-4027), Dunagan Farms in Ruidoso (575-257-9549 or 575-621-4056), New Mexico Livestock Board (575-649-2758), Carrizozo Animal Shelter (575-648-2351), Thundering Paws in Alto (575-336-7297), and Yolanda and Robert Espinoza (575-354-9019).

Many residents of the community have expressed interest in making monetary donations to the firefighting organizations. Local fire departments should be considered first. Additionally, the following websites provide avenues for making donations: www.wffoundation.org, and www.redcrossnewmexico.org.

Information on wildland fire smoke and your health can be found on the New Mexico Department of Health's website at: https://nmtracking.unm.edu/eh_alerts/, or call the New Mexico statewide health line at (877)304-4161. Additional websites for accurate fire information are [Facebook.com/LittleBearFireNM](https://www.facebook.com/LittleBearFireNM), [Twitter.com/T1SWIMT](https://twitter.com/T1SWIMT), [Flickr.com.photos.lincolnnationalforest](https://www.flickr.com/photos/lincolnnationalforest) (maps), and [Flickr.com/photos/wildland-fires-2012/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/wildland-fires-2012/) (photos).

Due to the ash and fire debris created by the Little Bear Fire, the risk of flash flooding is increased. The areas adjacent to Rio Ruidoso, Rio Hondo, Eagle Creek, Nogal, and Rio Bonito are historically prone to flash floods from rain in upstream drainages. The National Weather Service Advisories are available at: <http://www.weathe.gov/abq>.

A predictive model for probability of thunderstorms over burned areas, known as Burn Scar Thunderstorm Threat Matrix, is available at: http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/fxc/abq/graphiccast/image_full5.gif. Register for Lincoln County CodeRED Emergency Alerts at <http://www.lincolncountynm.net/>.

Just another day in the life of a firefighter:

Firefighters are dedicated to using their skills to manage fire whenever and wherever called. Most firefighters have made small sacrifices while working on fire. On the Little Bear fire, a Safety Officer and devoted family man missed the high school graduation of his youngest son. The graduation was to be followed by a long anticipated family camping trip.

While often disappointing, these missed events “come with the territory,” and are taken in stride by firefighters for the benefit of others.

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