



***Cherokee National Forest***  
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# News Release



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## **Sciota Road and Starlight Fires Update**

**UNICOI, TENN – MARCH 31, 2016 ...** The dry spring weather conditions has resulted in unusual fire activity in the Unicoi and Greeneville areas. The Sciota Road Fire started on March 29 at 4:00 pm on the Unaka Ranger District of the Cherokee National Forest. The fire is located east of Unicoi along the Little Mountain range north of Sciota Road. The fire is burning along the ridge and backing into the western drainages.

No structures have been damaged and none are threatened at this time. Cause of the fire is under investigation. Estimated size is 180 acres and containment at 30%.

Fire spread will continue to the north and east as the storm front passes through the area. Crews are working to construct containment lines to prevent further spread.

Residents in the Honeycomb, Whispering Pines, and Marbleton communities may see smoke and some fire activity today and tonight. Expected rain will reduce the fire spread and amount of smoke visible from these residences.

Additional crews from out of state have been called in to support fire suppression efforts. Crews will be using roads in the Sciota Creek area so residents should watch for heavy equipment and higher than normal traffic volume.

The Starlight Fire started on March 30 at 8:00 pm in the Paint Creek area of Greene County, along Highway 70 near the state line. This fire is also on the Unaka Ranger District of the Cherokee National Forest. That fire is estimated at 140 acres with no estimate on containment. State and Federal fire crews along with the South Greeneville Volunteer Fire Department are working to prevent spread. No structures are threatened at this time. Highway 70 has been reopened as of 5:00 pm.

With turkey season coming up, hunters and campers are reminded to be careful with their campfires. Make sure your fire is completely out before leaving and never leave a campfire unattended.

The Tennessee Division of Forestry requires a burn permit before burning brush piles. Residents are required to contact their local Tennessee Division of Forestry office before burning, and to follow permit procedures.

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