



**BRINS FIRE
UPDATE
7:30 PM**

*Great Basin Incident Management
Team 1
June 22, 2006*

Current Status

Today was a critical day in fire suppression efforts. Hot shot crews, with aerial support from helicopters and airtankers, made significant progress in Sterling Canyon. They have constructed and enhanced firelines, including a burnout, to prevent further spread of the fire further north of Social Trail. The Incident Management Team is cautiously optimistic that these actions may lead to containment within six days.

Containment lines are also in place to prevent movement of the fire towards Highway 89A. However, numerous structures in Oak Creek Canyon continue to be threatened. Structural protection crews and engines continue to improve defensible space around structures in the canyon.

Residents and visitors in the Sedona area can expect to experience continued smoke in the area, especially during the late evening and early morning hours due to downslope winds. These smoke inversions should lift around 9:00-to-10:00 this morning. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is monitoring air quality on a daily basis. Residents with respiratory problems are advised to adjust their daily schedules due to the smoke. Evacuation centers managed by the Red Cross are available for people with respiratory problems.

The point of origin for the wildland fire is closed to public access. An \$11,000 reward is now being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the wildland fire.

Estimated Acreage/expected containment

3,256 acres. This is based on an Infrared plane flight late yesterday afternoon. Containment is estimated at **15%**; full containment is predicted for June 28. Approximately 7 miles of fireline remain to be built.

Resources on the Fire/Costs

Crews: 17 Helicopters: 9 Engines: 31 Water tenders: 12 Total Personnel: 664
Other resources continue to arrive. Costs to Date: \$ 2,225,000. There has been one minor injury to date (twisted knee).

Cooperators

City of Sedona, Office of State Forestry, Yavapai County Sheriff's Office, Coconino County Sheriff's Office, Department of Public Safety, Arizona Department of Transportation, Sedona Fire District, Sedona Police Department, Grand Canyon Chapter of the American Red Cross, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service.

Evacuations

There will be a community meeting for Sedona area residents and evacuees tomorrow at 12 noon at the Elk's Lodge near the Sedona Airport. Sedona Fire District Chief Matt Shobert will be there to answer questions regarding the current evacuation.

Evacuation orders were lifted yesterday for the North end of Soldiers Pass Road (everything north of Casa Contenta) and upper part of Jordan Road (everything north of Navahopi), allowing area residents to return to their homes.

The evacuation order for the following communities continues:

- Oak Creek Canyon from Midgely Bridge to the fish hatchery in Sterling Canyon (this includes homes, businesses and Forest Service campgrounds).
- Residents are being escorted in and out by the Coconino Sheriff's Office on a limited basis to retrieve any pets and livestock as well essential items such as personal medications.

Two evacuations centers are available:

Big Park Community School (This location is for people evacuating south of Slide Rock)
25 W. Saddle Horn Road
Village of Oak Creek
Sedona, Ariz.

NAU Field House (This location is for people evacuating north of Slide Rock)
Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff, Ariz.
Corner of Knoles Drive and McCreary, next to the University Union

<p>Closures and restrictions</p>	<p>U.S. Highway 89A is closed through Oak Creek Canyon. The closure will be re-evaluated on a daily basis.</p> <p>Increasing fire danger conditions across the Southwest have warranted closure of the entire national forest. The Coconino National Forest will close to public access and use Friday morning, June 23, at 8 a.m. Closures in the past have proven to be an effective means of reducing the number of human-caused fires. Penalties for violation of this closure range from \$100 to \$5,000.</p> <p>Included in the Coconino NF closures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All campgrounds, day use picnic areas and cabins on the forest. • All trails on the Coconino National Forest. • All lakes, including Lake Mary, Ashurst Lake, Kinnikinick Lake, Blue Ridge Reservoir, Stoneman Lake. • Cinder Hills Off-Highway Vehicle Area north of Flagstaff. • St. Joseph's Youth Camp near Mormon Lake. • Arizona Snowbowl Skyride. • All National Forest System Roads will be closed, but all interstates, state and county roads through the Coconino National Forest will remain open.
<p>Incident plans for tonight</p>	<p>Tonight, crews will continue efforts to hold the fire west of Highway 89A, as well as providing structural protection measures for residences and other structures within Oak Creek Canyon.</p>
<p>Fire weather</p>	<p>Tonight will be mostly clear, with minimum temperatures on the fire ranging from 43-65, with maximum humidities of 16-23%. Downslope/downvalley winds of 3-5 mph are expected after 2100 hrs with occasional gusts to 17 mph in Oak Creek and Sterling Canyons.</p> <p>The outlook for tomorrow is partly cloudy and continued warm. The extended forecast predicts a high pressure system remaining over the region bringing above normal temperatures between the mid-90s to around 100 the next few days. Relative humidities will remain in the single digits to low teens. The possibility exists for isolated late afternoon dry thunderstorms with gusty winds.</p>
<p>Fire and Other Information</p>	<p>Although the National Forest is closed, Sedona and Flagstaff still offer many summer attractions and activities. Visit the Sedona Chamber of Commerce website (www.sedonachamber.com) for information regarding the many things to do in and around Sedona. Private campgrounds and the campground at Fort Tuthill County Park near Flagstaff will remain open with campfire and smoking restrictions. All Forest Service offices and visitor centers will be open. The closure will be lifted when sufficient precipitation is received to adequately reduce the risk of wildfire to a manageable level, and hot, dry weather conditions are not forecast to continue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For fire information and all media inquiries, please call the Brins Fire Information Center at 928-203-9648, 928-203-9650 or 928-203-7732. ■ For information related to the Coconino National Forest including fire restrictions/closures and for residential evacuee information, please call the Coconino National Forest Information Center at 928-226-4601. ■ For evacuation-related concerns, please call the Coconino County Sheriff's Office at 928-774-4523. ■ Arizonans can also dial 2-1-1 to hear updates on the fire. Arizonans unable to dial 2-1-1 can call 1-888-GoTo211 (888-468-6211). Or visit www.AZ211.gov. <p>Fire Websites: For continued fire information on the national forest, visit www.coconinoforest.us. Specific information for the Brins Fire can be found at ftp://ftp.nifc.gov/Incident_Specific_Data/GREAT_BASIN_E/Brins2006</p>