



**BRINS FIRE
UPDATE
7:00 PM**

*Great Basin Incident Management
Team 1
June 23, 2006*

	<p align="center">BRINS FIRE UPDATE 7:00 PM</p>	<p align="right"><i>Great Basin Incident Management Team 1 June 23, 2006</i></p>
<p>Current Status</p>	<p>The Sterling canyon remains an area of concern for firefighters. Extreme fire behavior and erratic, unpredictable winds hampered burnout efforts today and slowed re-enforcement of existing control lines, especially on the northwest portion of the Brins Fire. Crews are working hard to keep the fire within containment lines. Rolling debris on Highway 89A remains a concern. Fire growth is expected to the southeast as the fire continues to back down to Oak Creek Canyon. The Incident Management Team remains cautiously optimistic that containment can still be achieved by June 28.</p> <p>Additional burnouts will be used tonight, and in the days ahead, to enhance firelines. Residents should not be overly alarmed if they see large quantities of smoke over the next few days resulting from these burnout operations. Emergency measures are in place to notify the public should there be any concerns for residents.</p> <p>U.S. Highway 89A remains closed through Oak Creek Canyon. The closure will be re-evaluated on a daily basis. However, numerous structures – approximately 240 - in Oak Creek Canyon will continue to be threatened until the wildland fire is contained. Structural protection crews and engines continue to improve defensible space around structures in the canyon. Wildland and structural protection engines are strategically staged to protect these structures and address any possible spot fires over Highway 89A. A front-end loader will be used to remove rocks and other debris from Highway 89A over the next few days.</p> <p>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 from the burnout operations. These smoke inversions should lift around 9:00 am each day. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality continues to monitor air quality on a daily basis. People with respiratory problems are advised to adjust their daily schedules due to the smoke. An evacuation center at Big Park Community School managed by the Red Cross is available for people with respiratory problems.</p> <p>Power was restored to the Oak Creek Canyon area this morning at 10:30 a.m. Wilderness values and Threatened and Endangered species habitat (Mexican spotted owl, narrow-headed garter snake, and Peregrine falcon) continue to be affected.</p> <p>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. The number to call is 928-527-3600.</p>	
<p>Estimated Acreage/expected containment</p>	<p>3,977 acres. This is based on an Infrared plane flight late yesterday. Containment is estimated at 20%; full containment is predicted for June 28. Approximately 6.5 miles of fireline remain to be built.</p>	
<p>Resources on the Fire/Costs</p>	<p>Crews: <u>21</u> Helicopters: 8 Engines: <u>33</u> Water tenders: <u>14</u> Total Personnel: <u>721</u> Other resources continue to arrive. Costs to Date: \$ 3,220,000. There has been one minor injury to date (twisted knee).</p>	
<p>Cooperators</p>	<p>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, Sedona Airport Authority, 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.</p>	
<p>Evacuations</p>	<p>There was a community meeting for Sedona area residents and evacuees today at 12 noon at the Elk’s Lodge near the Sedona Airport. The next community meeting will be Sunday, June 25, at 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Evacuation orders were lifted Wednesday 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.</p> <p>The evacuation order for the following communities continues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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. 	

	<p>Only one evacuation center is 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. (6 a.m. to 7 p.m. only this Friday Saturday, and Sunday).</p> <p>The evacuation center at the NAU Field at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff closed today at 6:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Closures and restrictions</p>	<p>Increasing fire danger conditions across the Southwest has warranted closure of the entire Coconino NF. The forest was closed to public access and use Friday morning, June 23, at 8 a.m. this morning. 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 fireline construction and enhancement efforts, including burnouts, in the Sterling Canyon and western fire flank areas. Natural breaks in the topography will be utilized as much as possible to limit on-the-ground effects to the landscape. Efforts will also be focused on holding 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 partly cloudy (50-60% cloud cover), with temperatures on the fire ranging from 45-65, with maximum humidities of 16-23%. A slight chance of thunderstorms early in the evening is possible, with gusty winds up to 40 mph near storms.</p> <p>The extended forecast for Sunday through Tuesday is partly cloudy with the chance of showers and thunderstorms. There is also the possibility of isolated late afternoon dry thunderstorms with gusty winds. No moisture is expected. Highs on the lower slopes and valleys will be near 100, with highs over Wilson Mountain in the low to mid-90s. Relative humidities will be a little higher with minimum values in the teens.</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>