



**BRINS FIRE  
UPDATE  
7:30 AM**

*Great Basin Incident Management Team 1*  
**June 26, 2006**

**Current Status**

Firefighters will continue monitoring and enhancing containment lines today. Flare-ups inside the containment lines may occur, so intermittent smoke may be visible.

As containment of the fire increases, demobilization of resources is also increasing. Mop-up and rehabilitation are continuing along the fire perimeter. Since much of the fire is in the Red Rock Secret Mountain Wilderness, mop-up and rehabilitation efforts will focus on maintaining wilderness values and scenic beauty.

Highway 89A from Flagstaff south to Halfway Picnic area is open to residents and business owners only. Oak Creek Canyon and Highway 89A south of the Halfway Picnic Area to Uptown Sedona remain closed to all but fire traffic for safety reasons. Law enforcement personnel are stationed at the picnic area to enforce the road closure. The closure will be re-evaluated on a daily basis and re-opened when the dangers diminish. If an emergency situation should occur, the warning system would be activated and Coconino County Sheriff's officers would contact individuals with further instructions.

Residents and visitors in Sedona and the Verde Valley areas can expect to see less smoke in the next few days. Emergency measures are in place to notify the public should there be any concerns for residents. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality continues to monitor air quality on a daily basis. Smoke-related inversions should lift around 9:00 am each day.

Threatened and endangered species habitat and wilderness values continue to be a concern during fire suppression efforts.

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.

**Estimated Acreage/expected containment**

**4,222 acres.** Acreage is based on infrared imaging by aircraft. Containment is estimated at **50%**; full containment is predicted for June 28. Approximately **4.5** miles of fireline remain to be built.

**Resources on the Fire/Costs**

Crews: 20 Helicopters: 5 Engines: 33 Water tenders: 15 Total Personnel: 825  
Other resources continue to arrive. Costs to Date: \$ 4,500,000.

**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, 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.

**Evacuations and Public Meetings**

The next community meeting at the Elk's Lodge near the Sedona Airport will be today (Monday, June 26), at 1:30 p.m.

The evacuation order for the following communities remains in effect:

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

**Closures and restrictions**

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. 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.

Included in the Coconino NF closures:

- 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arizona Snowbowl Skyride.</li> <li>• All National Forest System Roads will be closed, but all interstates, state and county roads through the Coconino National Forest will remain open.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Incident plans for today</b></p>	<p>Firefighters will be flown into the south end of the fire to continue line construction and enhancement. Mop-up of the north end of the fire will continue and several miles of fire hose will be pulled from the northern containment lines. On the west side of the fire, firefighters continue to monitor the small areas of fire off Lost Wilson Mountain, and will take action as needed.</p> <p>Rehabilitation continues along Hwy 89A, including chipping the unburned material that crews removed from around the structures as a firewise space measure. As part of the rehabilitation efforts, these chips are being broadcast along Highway 89A.</p> <p>Structural protection measures for residences and other structures within Oak Creek Canyon will also continue today.</p>
<p><b>Fire weather</b></p>	<p>The forecast for today is for slightly cooler temperatures and slightly higher humidities due to increased cloud cover. There is a continuing chance of widely scattered, dry thunderstorms (20%) for the next few days. Temperatures on the fire will be 86-91 degrees on Wilson Mountain and 95-100 degrees on the slopes and in the valley. Humidities are predicted at 10-18%. The extended forecast for Wednesday through Friday calls for a slight chance of dry thunderstorms each day, with high temperatures continuing throughout the week. Low level moisture as the result of thunderstorm outflows will linger.</p>
<p><b>Fire and Other Information</b></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 (<a href="http://www.sedonachamber.com">www.sedonachamber.com</a>) 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"> <li>■ 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.</li> <li>■ For information related to the Coconino National Forest including fire restrictions/ and closures, please call the Coconino National Forest Information Center at 928-226-4601.</li> <li>■ For evacuation-related concerns, please call the Emergency Operations Center at the Coconino County Sheriff's Office at 928-679-4174 or 928-679-4175.</li> <li>■ 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 <a href="http://www.AZ211.gov">www.AZ211.gov</a>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Fire Websites: For continued fire information on the national forest, visit <a href="http://www.coconinoforest.us">www.coconinoforest.us</a>. Specific information for the Brins Fire can be found at <a href="ftp://ftp.nifc.gov/Incident_Specific_Data/GREAT_BASIN_E/Brins2006/">ftp://ftp.nifc.gov/Incident_Specific_Data/GREAT_BASIN_E/Brins2006/</a></b></p>