



BRINS FIRE UPDATE
8:00 AM

Great Basin Incident Management Team 1
JUNE 28, 2006

Current Status

The southern part of Highway 89A in Oak Creek Canyon, from Midgley Bridge to Halfway Picnic Area, opened to residents, business owners, and service providers only at 5 PM yesterday. Individuals wishing to enter the area will need to provide identification. The road will remain closed to the general public to avoid conflicts with fire traffic and to give residents and business owners time to return to their properties and resume normal activities. Law enforcement personnel are stationed in the area to enforce road closures. It is anticipated that Highway 89A will soon re-open to the general public when fire suppression-related operations are complete and following an assessment by Arizona Department of Transportation.

The threat to structures has diminished. Firefighters will continue monitoring containment lines.

Demobilization of firefighting personnel and other resources continues; containment is expected by 6:00 p.m. today. Containment means that there are sufficient lines around the fire that escape potential is very low. Mop-up and rehabilitation continues along the entire fire perimeter. Much of the fire was in the Red Rock Secret Mountain Wilderness, mop-up and rehabilitation efforts there will focus on maintaining wilderness values and scenic beauty.

Chipping of fuelbreak material (vegetation) along Highway 89A and around residences and businesses should conclude today by 6:00 p.m. Rehabilitation efforts will continue. The Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team continues an assessment of resource damage in the fire area. They are developing a plan to minimize the fire's long term impact to natural resources. The Coconino National Forest will implement the BAER team's plan once it is complete.

The point of origin for the wildland fire is closed to public access. An \$11,000 reward is 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.

As demobilization continues, donations of food and other items can no longer be accepted at the incident. Citizens who wish to show their appreciation for the firefighters may want to consider donating to the Friends of the Forest, an active volunteer organization dedicated to maintaining the scenic beauty of Sedona's national forest lands for the enjoyment and use of present and future generations (www.friendsoftheforestsedona.org) or the Wildland Firefighters Foundation, which takes care of families of fallen firefighters (www.wffoundation.org).

Estimated Acreage/Expected Containment

4,317 acres. Acreage is based on infrared imaging by aircraft. Containment is estimated at **90%**; full containment is predicted for June 28 by 6:00 p.m. Approximately **0.5** miles of fireline remain to be built.

Resources on the Fire/Costs

Crews: 4 Helicopters: 2 Engines: 3 Water tenders: 2 Personnel: 250 (estimated)
Demobilization is in progress. Costs to Date: \$ 5,875,000.

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

No future public meetings are planned.

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:

	<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 Today</p>	<p>Re-habilitation of containment lines and helispots will be the major focus of firefighter efforts today. Firefighters will be patrolling along Oak Creek Canyon and on the west side of the fire, as well as providing initial attack resources for any new wildland fire starts.</p>
<p>Fire Weather</p>	<p>The forecast for today is for a continuing chance of widely scattered thunderstorms (60%). Temperatures on the fire will be 83-89 degrees on Wilson Mountain and 88-95 degrees on the slopes and in the valley. Humidities are predicted at 15-24%. Winds on Wilson Mountain will be out of the northeast at 8-12 mph. Slope and valley winds will be 4-8 mph. Gusty winds of 10-20 mph are possible after noon. The possibility of thunderstorms increases in the afternoon. Winds near thunderstorm cells or virga showers will be erratic, with speeds up to 35 mph. The extended forecast for Friday through Sunday calls for thunderstorms each day, with high temperatures continuing throughout the week.</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/ and closures, please call the Coconino National Forest Information Center at 928-226-4601. • 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. • 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>