

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
Santa Fe National Forest



For Immediate Release MEDIA CONTACT: BRUCE HILL, USDA Forest Service (505) 438-5320
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PILE BURN

Forest plans Santa Fe Watershed prescribed pile burn

SANTA FE, NM - When conditions are favorable, fire managers will continue prescribed pile burning on the Santa Fe Watershed as early as Wednesday, January 11.

The location is three miles east of the City of Santa Fe and is approximately 20 acres.

A low volume of smoke is expected, but still may be visible to residents of Santa Fe, Tesuque, and I-25, and to the east from Glorieta to the Pecos Canyon area. Residual smoke may last a few days. District fire managers are closely monitoring weather forecasts and fuels conditions to ensure that burn operations and objectives will be met while minimizing the impacts of smoke on populated areas.

Slash piles consist of branches and debris from forest thinning projects, and are typically burned during winter since snow on the ground helps keep fire from spreading to surrounding vegetation. Prescribed fire is the managed application of fire to wildland fuels (woody material) under specified conditions within predetermined boundaries in an effort to reduce hazardous fuels, provide community protection, and restore forest health.

The Santa Fe National Forest realizes that smoke from prescribed fire can be a nuisance to some and a health concern for others, such as children, pregnant women, senior citizens, and those suffering from allergies, asthma, chemical sensitivities, or other heart or lung conditions. To reduce smoke exposure, stay indoors with windows, doors and vents closed. Avoid or limit outdoor activities.

For more information on how to minimize health impacts from smoke, contact the New Mexico Department of Health at 1-888-878-8992. To understand more about the terminology used to describe fire, visit the on-line Wildland Fire Terminology Glossary: <http://www.nwccg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary/>. For more information on the planned Santa Fe Watershed Prescribed Pile Burn, contact Jon Boe or Donald Vigil at (505)753-7331. Also, follow us on Twitter: twitter: @SantafeNF.

