



SOUTHWEST AREA INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM

TEAM 1 – Carl Schwope – INCIDENT COMMANDER



Precautionary measures on the Hermits Peak Fire

April 21, 2022, Daily Update, 10:00AM

Acres: 7,573 acres

Cause: Multiple spot fires spread beyond the prescribed fire project boundary

Containment: 91%

Total personnel: 358

Start Date: April 6, 2022

Location: Approx. 12 miles northwest of Las Vegas, NM, Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District, Hermits Peak/Pecos Wilderness

Fuels: Mixed conifer

Highlights: Despite aggressive winds Wednesday, crews were very successful in further containment of the fire to 91%. Crews will stay vigilant in the upcoming critical fire weather days. Team 1 is assisting the Calf Canyon Fire with resources. The team had a virtual community meeting last night for the Hermit's Peak and Calf Canyon Fires. It was recorded and can be viewed on the Santa Fe National Forest Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/santafeNF>. The safety of firefighters and the public remains our number one priority. Please slow down on the roads and use caution when encountering firefighters and equipment.

Operations: A slight decrease in winds will ease the fire behavior today, and expectations are for some interior smoldering but not much activity or growth. Focus will remain on the northwest side with containment and continued suppression repair, including seeding areas where handline has been dug. It is an important day for crews to get prepared for tomorrow's dynamic critical weather system coming in. Along the southeast portion of the fire, a couple more days of work is all that remains as crews continue to secure, monitor and evaluate suppression repair needs. In San Ignacio along the NM 266 corridor, crews continue to put hose and equipment in place out of an overabundance of caution for the potential for growth on the Calf Canyon Fire.

Evacuations: All evacuation statuses are current and valid. Traffic into affected communities is restricted to residents only. The San Miguel County Sheriff's Office continues to evaluate the situation and utilize the Ready, Set, Go! system. Information and details on evacuation orders are available on the San Miguel County Sheriff's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/smcso.nm>.

Weather: Today is a Red Flag day with warm, dry, and breezy conditions and southwest winds of 15-20 mph expected, with occasional gusts over 30 mph and climbing temperatures. Tomorrow afternoon brings a critical wind event with extremely high wind speeds and 55-70 mph gusts expected, along with the highest temperatures of the season. A cold front is expected next week.

Restrictions: The Santa Fe National Forest has issued a closure order to protect public health and safety during fire operations on the Hermits Peak Fire. The full closure order and map are available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/santafe/home>. The Santa Fe National Forest expects to implement Stage II fire restrictions soon. A temporary flight restriction (TFR) is in place, which includes unmanned aircraft, or drones. The TFR has been expanded to include the area around the Calf Canyon Fire. More information on the dangers drones pose to wildland firefighting aircraft and personnel on the ground can be found at: www.nifc.gov/drones.

Smoke: Smoke in the El Porvenir area will continue from the Calf Canyon Fire. Strong winds and blowing dust will impact the area. Brief periods of reduced visibilities may be encountered along NM 518, especially during the evening and nighttime hours between Las Vegas, Sapello, and Storrie Lake State Park due to smoke and blowing dust. Please exercise caution if traveling. Smoke-sensitive individuals and people with respiratory problems or heart disease are encouraged to take precautionary measures. An interactive smoke map at <https://fire.airnow.gov/> allows you to zoom into your area to see the latest smoke conditions.

Future Fire Information: The Hermits Peak Fire Information office hours are 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM. The phone number for Information is 505-398-1151. The email address is 2022.hermitspeak@firenet.gov. Future fire information will continue to be posted on [Incweb](#), the [SNF Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), [SNF website](#), and [New Mexico Fire Information website](#).

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