



Forest Service News Release

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New fire starts on Gila National Forest

SILVER CITY, NM – June 11, 2022— Firefighters and aircraft are currently working to suppress the Skates Fire on the Gila National Forest about 13 miles northeast of Silver City. It is estimated under 100 acres and spreading to the east. The Signal Peak Lookout reported the fire on Friday at 4:11 p.m. The incident is being managed by a Type 3 organization with Incident Commander Rocky Ahshapanek.

Resources assigned to the incident include several engines, a 20-person handcrew, three hotshot crews, eight smokejumpers, two bulldozers, and two helicopters totaling about 140 personnel. Additional resources are ordered. The fire is burning in steep, rugged terrain causing firefighters to hike one mile to reach the fire.

There are no evacuations associated with the Skates Fire. Residents and visitors are cautioned to avoid the area so that the firefighters can safely perform their job.

Residents and visitors with questions can call 530-640-1168.

[Gila National Forest website](#), [Facebook](#) and [nmfireinfo](#),

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