



Forest Service News Release

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Firefighters make good progress on Skates Fire

Northeast of Silver City in Grant County

SILVER CITY, NM – June 12, 2022— Forward progress is stopped, and firefighters are making good progress reinforcing the containment line around the Skates Fire about 15 miles northeast of Silver City on the Gila National Forest. The fire started by lightning on June 10. The incident is being managed by a Type 3 organization with Incident Commander Rocky Ahshapanek.

After ground mapping of the fire, the size was adjusted to 111 acres, it is 1% contained. Resources working on the incident include several engines, a 20-person hand crew, three hotshot crews, eight smokejumpers, two bulldozers, and two helicopters for a total of 140 personnel.

The fire is in steep, rocky, rugged terrain. Due to fire activity, Continental Divide Trail (CDT) hikers will need to reroute their trip at Township 16 S, Range 13 W, Section 13. This is where FS 855 intersects to allow people to reroute via the road to the north and west or trail 100 Allie Canyon to the east.

The hot, dry weather is forecast to continue for the next couple of days with temperatures in the high 80s and humidity from 10 to 15%. There is the potential for isolated showers and thunderstorms Sunday afternoon which could generate strong outflow winds and lightning with very little rainfall.

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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