



SOUTHWEST AREA TEAM 3 INCIDENT COMMANDER: LANCE ELMORE

Diamond Fire

Tonto National Forest & Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management

Public: 480-608-2054 Media: 480-608-5591 2023.Diamond.Tonto@firenet.gov

<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/aztnf-diamond-fire>

July 29, 2023

Location: Southwest of Sunflower **Start Date:** 07/22/2023 **Cause:** Under investigation
Size: 4,770 acres **Containment:** 0% **Total Personnel:** 340

Fire Conditions Improve on the Diamond Fire

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Yesterday yielded a significant decrease in fire activity with some smoke visible along State Route 87. Aerial resources monitored and took action on the western side of the fire where needed with the southwest portion of the fire being the most active. In the northern, eastern and southern portions of the fire, ground resources cooled hotspots with aerial support. Crews monitored previous burnout areas and continued prepping roads to the north and southeast in the event of any future burnout plans. Ground crews began securing line and mopping up around Sunflower.

Today's operational plan will be similar to yesterday. Aerial resources will continue to support ground resources in preventing significant fire growth. Dozers will improve road access in the northern portion of the fire while ground resources will hold existing fire lines and scout locations for secondary contingency lines. Some smoke will be visible from State Route 87 as interior clean up of green fuels occurs.

Temperatures are expected to remain in the triple digits today with relative humidity hovering around 20%. Winds will be westerly less than 20 miles per hour. Several models indicate an increase in thunderstorm activity directly in and around the fire area. These afternoon thunderstorms may bring strong, erratic outflow winds and potential for precipitation.

CLOSURES AND EVACUATIONS

The National Forest has issued a closure order for the fire area to provide public health and safety due to firefighting operations. Forest Road 627, west of State Route 87, remains closed to the general public per the Forest Area Closure. Refer to Inciweb for the closure order in entirety. Although not currently planned, there is the possibility for a State Route 87 closure. If you have travel plans in the area, pay close attention to <https://az511.gov> and our Facebook page for the most up-to-date road closure information. <https://www.facebook.com/diamond.fire.tonto>

The communities of Sunflower, Cross F Ranch, and Diamond Ranch are currently under the GO evacuation notice. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/nhv6uyyt> for further information. An interactive evacuation map link is available on both Inciweb and Facebook: <https://tinyurl.com/54tbdhm2>

RESTRICTIONS

There is a temporary flight restriction over the fire area, which includes the use of drones (UAS). Flying a drone over a fire area is dangerous to pilots and will cause air operations to shut down. Flying a drone within the restricted area is also illegal.

The Tonto National Forest is currently under Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. Please see <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/tonto/alerts-notice/?aid=81280> for more information.

