



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 30, 2023

Location: Southwest of Sunflower **Start Date:** 07/22/2023 **Cause:** Under investigation
Size: 5,150 acres **Containment:** 0% **Total Personnel:** 354

Resources Continue to Hold Diamond Fire Amid Thunderstorm Activity

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Yesterday resources held the Diamond Fire amid overnight thunderstorms. Ground crews monitored conditions around Sunflower and State Route 87. Managers are curating plans for containment lines along the eastern side of the fire with an emphasis around communities. Equipment continued improving access north of Sunflower, while dozers prepped the 1333 road to the south as a holding feature, if needed. The southwest portion of the fire continues to be active, but moving at a slow rate of spread. Access remains difficult for the western portion of the fire, but air resources cooled hotspots in these areas.

Today's operational plan will be an extension from yesterday. Ground resources will begin shifting to the south-southwestern portion of the fire. Crews working around Sunflower will continue to monitor conditions and extinguish any visible smokes. Mastication equipment will be removing fuels along the Old Beeline Highway. Resources will continue scouting the Alder Creek drainage for potential burning in the future, if needed.

Temperatures are expected to remain in the triple digits today with relative humidity increasing slightly. Winds will be southwest at less than 20 miles per hour. Several models indicate increased thunderstorm activity in and around the fire area. These thunderstorms may bring strong, erratic outflow winds and an increased 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.

