



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](mailto:2023.Diamond.Tonto@firenet.gov)

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

July 31, 2023

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**Location:** Southwest of Sunflower **Start Date:** 07/22/2023 **Cause:** Under investigation  
**Size:** 5,101 acres **Containment:** 9% **Total Personnel:** 365

### Diamond Fire Resources Increase Containment to 9%

#### OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Yesterday crews increased containment on the Diamond Fire to 9% with minimal growth in overall acreage. Along the north, east, and southern portions of the fire, ground crews continued to utilize helicopters to cool hotspots. Around the community of Sunflower, engines and crews mopped up hotspots along the fire's edge, thus securing containment lines around the community. Dozers continued to improve access for crews and engines in rugged terrain. On the western portion of the fire, resources refined plans for potential burnout operations, if needed, and employed helicopters to aid in cooling active areas around Maverick Springs.

Today's operational plan will build upon good work completed yesterday. Engines will continue monitoring the containment line around Sunflower, while additional ground resources will push further north along the 344 road to extend containment in that direction. Dozers will continue access improvement north of Sunflower and the masticator will remove fuels along the Old Beeline Hwy. Crews will continue monitoring the western portion of the fire with a crew shuttle planned into Maverick Springs to begin direct attack on that section of line that is east of Maverick Mountain.

Temperatures are expected to decrease a bit today with an increase in relative humidity resulting from area thunderstorm activity. Winds will be southwest at less than 20 miles per hour. Although there is an increase in the probability of precipitation, it remains localized to thunderstorm activity. These storms may bring strong, erratic outflow winds which could impact fire activity.

#### CLOSURES AND EVACUATIONS

The Tonto National Forest has issued a closure order for the fire area to provide public health and safety due to firefighting operations. 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 evacuation notice for the communities of Sunflower, Cross F Ranch, and Diamond Ranch has downgraded from GO to SET. 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.

