



SOUTHWEST AREA TEAM 3 INCIDENT COMMANDER: LANCE ELMORE

Diamond Fire

Tonto National Forest & Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management

Fire Information: 480-608-2054 2023.Diamond.Tonto@firenet.gov

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

July 28, 2023

Location: Southwest of Sunflower **Start Date:** 07/22/2023 **Cause:** Under investigation
Size: 4,635 acres **Containment:** 0% **Total Personnel:** 344

Resources Successful in Holding Diamond Fire After Thunderstorm Activity

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Yesterday was largely a calm day regarding fire activity on the Diamond Fire. The bulk of activity occurred on the northern portion of the fire where resources managed a slop over and a few spot fires in the Alder Creek drainage as the result of thunderstorm activity from the previous night. However, groundcrews were successful in securing these areas of concern. Additionally, managers began staffing some areas that are difficult to access on the northwest and west portions of the fire. There was minimal fire progression on the east to southeast portions of the fire and crews employed aircraft late in the shift to boost overnight humidities along the fire's edge.

For today's operational shift, ground resources will utilize aerial resources to continue holding the fire around the community of Sunflower, as well as along Hwy 87. Crews on the southern and southeastern section of the fire will monitor fire behavior and continue with fuel removal along the 1333 road for potential future use as a holding feature. Additional resources will be mobilized to the western area of the fire, with a Type 1 helicopter assisting to keep the fire in place.

Although not planned at this time, there is the possibility there will be a need to close State Road 87. If you plan on traveling in the area, pay close attention to <https://az511.gov/> and our Facebook page for the most up to date road closure information.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Temperatures are expected to remain in the triple digits today with relative humidities remaining below 20 percent. Winds will generally be less than 20 miles per hour out of the west in the morning with a shift to a more northerly direction in the late afternoon and evening. An increase in thunderstorm activity can be expected in the afternoon with an increase in monsoonal convection progressing northward. These afternoon thunderstorms may bring stronger and erratic outflow winds. Where winds align with steep topography and vegetation, fire activity is expected to increase with the possibility for rapid growth.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

The National Forest has issued a closure order for the fire area to provide public health and safety due to firefighting operations and fire danger associated with the Diamond Fire. Forest Road 627, west of State Route 87, remains closed to the general public per the Forest Area Closure.

Lastly, there was a recent drone intrusion within the Diamond Fire temporary flight restriction area. The Diamond Fire would like to remind people that 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 illegal.

