



SOUTHWEST AREA INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM

TEAM 4 - AARON HULBURD - INCIDENT COMMANDER



Local Type 4 organization to assume command of the Valentine Fire

August 29, 2023 – Daily Update

Size: 14 acres
Cause: Lightning
Completion: 30%
Total personnel: 234

Start Date: August 16, 2023
Location: 11 miles northeast of Young, Arizona and 27 miles east of Payson, Arizona
Fuels: Hardwood litter and timber

Highlights: Last night, the Southwest Area Type 2 Incident Management Team 4 hosted a community meeting in Christopher Creek to share updates and information about the Valentine Fire. Over 60 community members attended the meeting to hear presentations from the incident management team and the Tonto National Forest, followed by a question and answer session. At 7:00 PM on Tuesday, August 29, Team 4 will transfer command of the Valentine Fire to a local Type 4 organization, led by Incident Commander David Rasmussen. Team 4 extends its sincere thanks to the local communities for their support, gratitude, and hospitality throughout this incident. Firefighters are either demobilizing to return to their home units or reassigning to assist other wildfires across the country.

Future Fire Information: The Valentine Fire Information phone number and email address will no longer be active after 7:00 PM on Tuesday, August 29. For future updates, please contact the Tonto National Forest Public Affairs Office at SM.FS.TontoPIO@usda.gov or 602-525-1042. This will be the final update for the Valentine Fire.

Operations: The size of the Valentine Fire remains at 14 acres, and firefighters have successfully increased the completion of operational objectives to 30%. Remaining crews are continuing to conduct road maintenance and repair dozer lines around the planning area. The objectives achieved on the Valentine Fire, including line preparation and point protection, were designed to support the Forest Service Wildfire Crisis Strategy, a national strategy to address the wildfire crisis in places where it poses the most immediate threats to communities. To learn more about the Wildfire Crisis Strategy, please visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/wildfire-crisis>.

Weather: Conditions will be mostly clear in the morning with a pronounced morning inversion. Temperatures will rise to above normal levels in the upper 80s to lower 90s this afternoon with continued dry conditions. A light northeast wind in the morning will transition to the southwest then west by late afternoon. Cumulus clouds will develop late morning through the afternoon, although chances of any rain are very low (15%). Relative humidity this afternoon will drop into the 20-25% range after moderate overnight recoveries.

Closures: The Tonto National Forest has issued an emergency area closure for the Valentine Fire. The purpose of the closure order is to protect public health and safety during the Valentine Fire, and to protect assigned firefighting personnel engaging in wildland firefighting operations. The full closure order ([No. 03-12-05-23-22](#)) and map are available on the Tonto National Forest website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/tonto/alerts-notices/?aid=82769>.

Safety: The health and safety of firefighters and the public are always the first priority. Members of the public should stay away from Valentine Fire operations. The Temporary Flight Restriction over the fire area has now been lifted.

Smoke: Smoke has become less visible as rainstorms have moved into the Valentine Fire area. An interactive smoke map at <https://fire.airnow.gov/> allows you to zoom into your area to see the latest smoke conditions.

Fire updates are posted on [InciWeb](#) and the Tonto National Forest [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
Email: 2023.valentine@firenet.gov • **Phone:** (928) 588-4033 • **Office Hours:** 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

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