



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>

August 1, 2023

Location: Southwest of Sunflower **Start Date:** 07/22/2023 **Cause:** Under investigation
Size: 5,101 acres **Containment:** 34% **Total Personnel:** 387

Firefighters take advantage of favorable weather to protect Sonoran Desert ecosystem

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

The entire southeast side of the fire along State Route 87 is now contained. Yesterday, fire managers took advantage of higher humidity to insert firefighters into the Maverick Mountain area and use direct suppression action on the most active part of the Diamond Fire. Due to the inaccessible location, hotshots were shuttled into the area on helicopters to address remaining heat. Working with aircraft, the hotshots were able to mop up and secure the fire's edge to reduce the chance of further movement south into the delicate Sonoran Desert ecosystem. The operation was successful, and the Maverick Mountain area will continue to be monitored by aircraft.

Today's operational plan will include the continued monitoring, patrolling, and cooling of any remaining hot spots. Engines will continue patrolling the State Route 87 corridor and the community of Sunflower. Chipping and removal of brush and debris will continue with heavy equipment along the Old Beeline Hwy. Rehab of equipment and backhaul will begin.

Temperatures are expected to remain slightly lower today. A similar trend of building afternoon clouds and potential thunderstorms will increase the potential of gusty outflow winds. Any remaining heat may smoke or move when driven by wind. A warming and drying trend is expected to begin tomorrow and continue through the week.

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. The Old Beeline Hwy is closed to non-residents.

Sunflower, Cross F Ranch, and Diamond Ranch are in 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 National Forest is currently under Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. Please see <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/tonto/alerts-notices/?aid=81280> for more information.

