



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 2, 2023

Location: Southwest of Sunflower **Start Date:** 07/22/2023 **Cause:** Under investigation
Size: 5,101 acres **Containment:** 39% **Total Personnel:** 337

Brief Wetting Rains Support Containment Efforts on the Diamond Fire

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Firefighters continued to take advantage of increased humidities from recent wetting rains and expanded containment around the north side of the fire into Alder Springs yesterday. There has been a significant decrease in heat and smoke on the fire and crews are utilizing favorable conditions to monitor the fire, patrol containment lines, and extinguish any remaining heat sources found. Dozers completed the access improvement operation north of Sunflower and the masticator continued removing fuels along the Old Beeline Highway and around the Sunflower Education Center.

Ground resources will continue to monitor and patrol the fire today. Firefighters will improve containment lines around the fire and mop-up any remaining heat along the line. Containment efforts will be concentrated to the western and southern areas of the fire, which were previously the most active locations. Engines will continue patrolling the State Route 87 corridor and the community of Sunflower. With increased containment and diminishing heat sources around the perimeter, fire managers will begin demobilizing resources over the next few days, as well as continue backhaul and equipment rehab.

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

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.

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office has lifted the SET notification status for residents of Sunflower, Cross F Ranch, and Diamond Ranch and returned them to READY. 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.

