



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



## Valentine Fire Update

### Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023

**Size:** 2,881 acres  
**Cause:** Lightning  
**Completion:** 49%  
**Total personnel:** 177

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

**Highlights:** Conditions begin to show a drying trend through the weekend, allowing crews to test consumption of fuels and begin looking for opportunities to continue hand and aerial ignitions.

**Operations:** Friday, crews on the western border of the fire went in to test consumption of fuels with hand ignition. Some of the ridges showed to be drier than some of the drainages. Crews on the southeast corner scouted the area to familiarize and check for evenness of fire progression along the 411 road. Today, crews will continue to test consumption of fuels and look for good opportunities to tie in aerial ignitions on some of the ridges to the west.

**Fire Ecology:** Plants and plant communities develop adaptations to specific ecological conditions. In areas with historically short fire return intervals (high fire frequency) plants have adapted not only to survive fire but to take advantage of fire, and they do better when there are frequent fires. The kind of fire (frequency, severity) that a plant can survive varies widely based on the species, and depending on the types of adaptations they have developed. For example, mature ponderosa has thick bark (insulation), grows tall (keeps the growing tips of the branches out of the fire) and naturally drops its lower branches (self-pruning).

**Weather:** Friday was fairly dry as most of the thunderstorms remained to the north and did not pass over the fire area. Today will be similar with a better chance of warming up, staying dry, and a slight drop in humidity. Going into Sunday we may see an increased chance of afternoon showers.

**Closures:** An emergency closure order for the Valentine Fire has gone into effect as of 6 a.m. Sept. 5, 2023. The public is asked to avoid the fire area. 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. Signs and gates will be in place to remind the public not to enter the fire area. Please visit the Alerts and Notices page for more information.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/tonto/alerts-notice>.

**Safety:** The health and safety of firefighters, and the public are always the highest priority. Members of the public are asked to avoid the fire area.

**Smoke:** The fire will produce considerable amount of smoke due excessive fuel accumulation. Smoke from the Valentine Fire may be visible in the surrounding areas for many days. Smoke-sensitive individuals and people with respiratory problems or heart disease are encouraged to take precautionary measures an interactive smoke map at

<https://www.airnow.gov/wildfires/> allows you to zoom into your area to see the latest smoke conditions.

#### Information Links and Contacts:

Tonto National Forest <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/tonto/fire>

InciWeb <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/aztnf-valentine-fire>

Fire Email [2023.valentine@firenet.gov](mailto:2023.valentine@firenet.gov)

Fire Information Line (928)-421-4579 • Office Hours: 8:00 AM – 8:00PM



<https://linktr.ee/valentinefire>



