



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



## Valentine Fire Update

### Tuesday, September 19, 2023

**Size:** 4,614 acres  
**Cause:** Lightning  
**Completion:** 61%  
**Total personnel:** 178

**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:** Yesterday, crews were able to complete firing operations along constructed holding features on the north portion of the fire. Impacts from smoke are expected through the week and visible from multiple locations. As temperatures cool overnight smoke may linger in drainages and valleys until daytime winds surface.

**Operations:** Monday, firefighters on the northwest perimeter conducted hand ignition operations, tying in the north and west fire edges along Chamberlain Trail Road (FSRD 200). Today, firefighters will continue to work down the drainages from north to south towards Clay Springs Road (FSRD 411) building depth and keeping an even line of completion. Crews will also continue firing operations to connect the fire's edge down the Chamberlain Trail (FSRD 200) to the FSRD 848.

**Fire Ecology:** Serotinous cones have adapted to fire and use it to spread their seeds. These cones are closed tight around their seeds and are glued shut with a resin. When the cone is heated, it opens up and the seeds drop to the forest floor. Most of the ground cover will have been consumed, so the seed has good contact with the soil, as well as extra nutrients from the burned material so – perfect! [Click Here to Watch the Serotinous Cone open when heat is applied.](#)

**Weather:** Yesterday dry and breezy conditions were observed over the fire area. Due to drier and windier conditions a slight drop in relative humidity was recorded. Today's forecast calls for dry conditions to continue with lighter winds.

**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 may produce additional smoke due to tactical firing operations. Smoke from the Valentine Fire may be visible in the surrounding areas for multiple 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/> lets you 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

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



<https://linktr.ee/valentinefire>



