



## Forest Service Fire Information Update

Contact: Heather McLean  
928-291-7354 (7am- 7pm)  
2024.west@firenet.gov

### UPDATE: West Fire, Payson Ranger District

*September 28, 2024*

**Size:** 15,074 acres

**Start Date:** August 28, 2024

**Cause:** Lightning

**Location:** Payson Ranger District, Arizona

**Containment:** 65%

**Fuels:** Ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, chaparral

**Total personnel:** 158

**Operations:** Yesterday, Gila County Division of Emergency Management lowered evacuation levels around the fire to READY status, meaning be aware of hazards and have a plan in the event of an evacuation order. Crews monitored fire burning in the interior, naturally cleaning up remaining fuel on the ground. Work to return fire equipment and supplies from the line continues and is expected to be complete by September 29. Fire managers met with the Burned Area Emergency Response team members to begin the work of preparing for possible erosion and needed repairs to the fire area. Today, crews will continue to monitor the fire and check for containment; no further ignitions are expected to occur. There will be smoke settling in lower areas overnight with expected light winds over the weekend.

**Weather:** Today, sunny with haze and smoke in the afternoon, with high temperatures of 89 degrees. Winds SE 5 mph, 0% chance of precipitation, with humidity in the 16% range. Tonight, clear with haze, low around 58 degrees, winds E 5 mph

**Safety:** The health and safety of firefighters and the public are always a priority. Please remember to respect closure areas and be cautious when driving near fire equipment on the roads.

**Smoke:** Smoke from the West fire may be visible as interior fuel continues to dry and burn, decreasing as the week wears on. Expect concentrations in low-lying areas near the fire perimeter in the mornings. Smoke-sensitive individuals and people with respiratory problems or heart disease are encouraged to take precautionary measures. Learn more about smoke impacts on the [Arizona Department of Environmental Quality website](#).

**Closures:** The Tonto National Forest has issued a closure for land surrounding the West fire. This includes the Pine Trailhead. <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-publication/aztnf-2024-west-fire-tnf/us-forest-service-closure-order-for-west-fire-09-04-2024>

**Evacuations:** Pine residents on the east side of SR 87 and east of North Pine Creek Canyon Road are in READY status. Geronimo Estates residents near the West Fire are in READY status. For information on evacuation status, visit <https://nifc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=9bf2ca222ee74f8697bc670ae9c2531a> To receive emergency notifications from Gila County, visit <https://gilacountyaz.genasys.com/portal/en>

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