



Forest Service Fire Information Update

Horton Fire Update - Payson Ranger District

December 30, 2024

Size: 1,095 acres

Cause: Human caused and under investigation

Containment: 17%

Total personnel: 181

Start Date: December 14, 2024

Location: Payson Ranger District, Arizona

Fuels: Ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, chaparral

Highlights: The Horton Fire increased to 1,095 acres and remains at 17% containment. No firing operations occurred on the Horton Fire yesterday.

Tonight's community meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, located at 546 W Ashby Apple Dr., Payson, AZ 85541.

Tomorrow, December 31, 2024, Southwest Area Incident Management Team 1 will assume command and management of the Horton Fire.

Operations: Yesterday, crews patrolled the fire area and secured fuel breaks and contingency lines near powerlines and roadways west of Christopher Creek.

Today, increased fire activity is expected near the Promontory Point area, with fire continuing to move east and south along Promontory Point and east of Horton Springs. Crews will assess conditions and conduct firing operations where needed to secure Forest Road 300, FR 76 and other values at risk.

Weather: Today's forecast calls for sunny skies and high temperatures in the mid-50s to low-60s with relative humidity near 20% and light to moderate winds. Local weather is forecasted to be above average temperature for this time of year with low relative humidity and no precipitation anticipated.

Closures: An emergency closure order for the Horton Fire is in effect from Dec. 18, 2024, to Jan. 31, 2025. The public is asked to avoid the fire area. The purpose of the closure order is to protect public health and safety during the Horton Fire, and to protect assigned firefighting personnel engaging in wildland firefighting operations. Learn more at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/tonto/alerts-notices>.

The Tonto Creek Fish Hatchery is also closed due to the Horton Fire.

Safety: The communities of Tonto Creek Estates, Tonto Christian Camp, Tonto Fish Hatchery, and Zane Grey Cabins remain in SET evacuation status. The health and safety of firefighters and the public are always the priority. Members of the public are asked to avoid the fire area.

Highway closures are not currently in effect due to the Horton Fire. Travelers are encouraged to monitor roadway status and conditions via AZ Department of Transportation at <https://www.az511.com/>.

Smoke: Increased smoke from the Horton Fire may be visible in the surrounding areas for many days. Smoke Outlook information is available at <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/>. Air quality information is available at <https://www.azdeq.gov/>.

Information Links and Contacts:

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

InciWeb <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/aztnf-horton-fire-2024>

Fire Email 2024.horton@firenet.gov

Fire Information Line (602)-551-7327 • Office Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.