



Southwest Area Complex Incident Management Team

TEAM 1 – Carl Schwope – Incident Commander



Crews holding fireline after successful firing operations; Public meeting tonight in Christopher Creek

Daily Update: January 2, 2025

Acres: 1,164

Location: Payson Ranger District, Arizona

Personnel: 334

Containment: 17%

Resources: 4 crews | 20 engines | 1 helicopter | 1 bulldozers | 2 water tenders

Start Date: December 14, 2024

Cause: Under Investigation

Fuels: Timber, chaparral

Highlights: The Horton Fire is now 1,164 acres and remains 17% containment. A public meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. tonight, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, located at 546 W Ashby Apple Dr., Payson, AZ 85541. This meeting will also be livestreamed on the Tonto National Forest Facebook page.

Operations: Yesterday, crews successfully conducted firing operations along the eastern perimeter of the fire. Today, firefighters will continue patrolling, securing and holding the fireline in that area. Additional ignitions may occur on the north end of the fire to secure Forest Road 76 to the edge of the Mollogon Rim.

Surrounding communities can expect to see crews assessing and scouting contingency line opportunities and point protection needs around residential areas and along powerlines and roadways throughout the week.

Weather: Yesterday, high pressure overhead resulted in above-average temperatures, low humidity, and light winds. Similar conditions are anticipated today with temperatures in the 50s, relative humidity in the teens and winds at 10mph.

Smoke: Smoke from the Horton Fire will be visible in the surrounding areas for many days. Smoke Outlook information is available at <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/>.

Closures: A closure order for the Horton Fire is in effect from Dec. 30, 2024, to May 30, 2025, unless rescinded. 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-notice>.

Evacuations: 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.

Safety: Highway closures are not currently in effect due to the Horton Fire, however reduced visibility due to smoke on SR-260 is possible. Travelers are encouraged to monitor roadway status and conditions via AZ Department of Transportation at <https://www.az511.com/>.

Phone Number: 602-551-7327 (8 a.m. - 8 p.m.)

Email: 2024.horton@firenet.gov

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TontoNationalForest>