



Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Office of Justice Services  
1001 Indian School Rd. NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87104

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 17, 2024

Call: 208-559-1187

# South Fork Wildfire Investigation Report In Development

*Mescalero, New Mexico* – The South Fork Fire was determined to be caused by lightning sometime prior to the fire’s detection on June 17, 2024. Certified Wildland fire and law enforcement investigators continue their thorough investigation and will release a complete investigation report when it is available.

On June 18, at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, wildland fire investigators and law enforcement officers from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Bureau of Land Management, U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, New Mexico State Parks, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation began an investigation into the cause of the wildfire. This is a comprehensive and impartial investigation that requires thorough analysis and documentation.

As part of the systematic process, investigators are evaluating lightning occurrence data, lidar, and other tracking of indicator burn patterns. This work requires detailed analysis that takes time to process and document in accordance with the standards established by the [National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group Guide to Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination](#). The Bureau of Indian Affairs appreciates the public’s patience as investigators methodically work to develop the complete report.

The cause of the nearby Salt Fire remains under investigation. Anyone who may have information pertaining to its cause is encouraged to either call 1-800-CALL-FBI, or text a detailed anonymous tip to “BIAMMU” (mobile number 847411). Tips may also be submitted online at [tips.fbi.gov](https://tips.fbi.gov).

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