



## Southwest Area Incident Management Team

TEAM 5 – Dave Gesser– INCIDENT COMMANDER

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### Ground efforts hindered by severe weather conditions Daily Update, Thursday, June 27, 2024

**Mescalero Apache Tribe Emergency Operations Center:** 575-464-9214

**Village of Ruidoso and Lincoln County Emergency Operations Center:** 575-258-6900

**Fire Information Phone:** 575-323-8378 or 575-323-8258

**Media Information Phone:** 575-323-8053

**Phone Line Hours:** 8 am – 8 pm

**Email:** 2024.southfork@firenet.gov

**Acres:** South Fork – 17,569; Salt – 7,939

**Location:** South Fork – Ruidoso Area

Salt – 7 mile west of Mescalero, NM

**Fuels:** mixed conifer, grass, pine/juniper

**Resources:** The South Fork and Salt fires are currently staffed with 21 crews, 4 helicopters, 42 engines, 9 bulldozers, and 12 water tenders.

**Start Date:** June 17, 2024

**Personnel:** 900

**Containment:** South Fork – 69%; Salt – 66%

#### Highlights:

**Interactive property map updates available for Village of Ruidoso.** Property access status updates are available, including properties available for re-entry and those in the No Entry/Exclusion Zones. Use [www.ruidoso-nm.gov/south-fork-fire](http://www.ruidoso-nm.gov/south-fork-fire) for more information.

**Reminder: Celebrate July 4<sup>th</sup> without fireworks.** Fireworks can cause new starts in the area. Please celebrate the holiday without fireworks this year, so firefighters and cooperators can complete their efforts across the South Fork and Salt Fires.

**Fire Activity:** The South Fork and Salt fires are experiencing limited fire activity, thanks in part to daily scattered storms, and the hard work firefighters are putting in to find and extinguish hot spots. Occasional smoke will be visible as pockets of unburned fuels and could ignite, even as monsoonal weather patterns move into the area.

Crews continue to mop up and begin to repair actions taken by firefighters to prevent the South Fork and Salt fires from growing. Cooperators, and utility providers are working to address service needs for communities. As a reminder, conditions are dynamic and will remain that way through the duration of the incident. Maintain awareness and reduce your speed while traveling through the area.

**Weather:** Temperatures will remain in the mid-high 80s. Scattered showers and thunderstorms return, bringing along the risk of flash floods and debris flows.

**Smoke:** Smoke production will remain light to moderate with the highest impacts during the early morning and late evening hours. Additional details are available at <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/430b2c05>.

**Reentry:** No evacuations are in place. However, designated "NO ENTRY/EXCLUSION ZONES" remain in place in some areas of the village. Visit <https://www.ruidoso-nm.gov/south-fork-fire> or contact the Village of Ruidoso and Lincoln County Emergency Operations Centers for more information.

Tribal members who have been displaced outside of the Mescalero Apache Reservation due to the fires are strongly encouraged to contact the Tribe's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to help you and your families get back to the reservation. If you're stranded out of town at other evacuation sites, please call the EOC at 575-464-9214 for more details.

**Closures:** A South Fork Fire Emergency Closure Order was issued on June 20, 2024, for national forest lands within the Smokey Bear Ranger District. The identified areas, and roads and trails therein, are closed to public access to allow firefighting personnel to work and through the fire area safely. More information is available at [www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/lincoln/alerts-notice/?aid=88199](http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/lincoln/alerts-notice/?aid=88199).

A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) is in place over the fire area. Public/commercial drone flights are also prohibited within this area. If you fly, we may have to ground our air resources. Visit <https://www.tfr.faa.gov> for more information.

**More information:**

Inciweb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/nmmea-south-fork-and-salt>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SWIMT5>

Smoke Outlook: <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/430b2c05>

Lincoln County Government: [www.lincolncountynm.gov](http://www.lincolncountynm.gov)

Mescalero Apache Tribe: <https://mescaleroapachetribe.com>

Village of Ruidoso: [www.ruidoso-nm.gov/south-fork-fire](http://www.ruidoso-nm.gov/south-fork-fire)