



## Southwest Area Incident Management Team

TEAM 5 – Dave Gesser – INCIDENT COMMANDER

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### Crews help community while waiting for road conditions to improve Daily Update, Wednesday, July 3, 2024

**Mescalero Apache Tribe Emergency Operations Center:** 575-464-9214 (8am-6pm)

**Village of Ruidoso and Lincoln County Emergency Operations Center:** 575-258-6900 (7am-10pm)

**Fire Information Phone:** 575-323-8378 or 575-323-8258 (8am-8pm)

**Media Information Phone:** 575-323-8053 (8am-8pm)

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

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

**Location:** South Fork – Ruidoso Area

Salt – 7 miles west of Mescalero, NM

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

**Resources:** The South Fork and Salt fires are currently staffed with 11 crews, 1 helicopter, 16 engines, 2 bulldozers, and 5 water tenders.

**Start Date:** June 17, 2024

**Personnel:** 532

**Containment:** South Fork – 87%; Salt – 84%

#### Highlights:

**Fireworks** – Fireworks are always prohibited on the Lincoln National Forest. On the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation, fireworks are only allowed as part of an organized event.

**Fire restrictions** – Fire restrictions have been updated for Mescalero Apache Tribal lands. Details available in “Closures”, below.

**Flood mitigation** – On Tuesday, crews once again supported flood mitigation efforts, filling an additional 28,000 sandbags for the community, bringing the 2-day total of filled sandbags to over 46,000.

**Fire Activity:** Fire activity remains limited on the South Fork and Salt fires. Remaining heat sources on the South Fork Fire are downed logs away from control lines. Hot spots on the Salt Fire remain within dense conifer stands and snags and do not threaten containment.

Suppression repair crews will work across the South Fork and Salt fire area today. If conditions permit, crews will focus on repair of bulldozer roads and hand lines as well as chipping operations.

While monsoon season is in progress across the region, dry fuels are still present due to the continuation of the long-term drought affecting the area. Large diameter fuels, like dead/down logs, are dry for this time of year. As the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday approaches, please refrain from using fireworks, as these can cause new ignitions in dry

persistent dry fuels.

**Weather:** Wednesday brings light clouds across the fire area, temperatures in the mid-80s and light potential for scattered rain. The remainder of the week will include a mix of warm, dry weather, followed by more scattered storms.

**Closures and Restrictions:** A South Fork Fire Emergency Closure Order was issued on June 20, 2024, for national forest lands within the Smokey Bear Ranger District. More information is available at [www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/lincoln/alerts-notices/?aid=88199](http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/lincoln/alerts-notices/?aid=88199).

The Mescalero Apache Tribe issued an updated Class V/Stage II – Extreme Fire Restriction Notice on July 1, 2024. More information is available on the Mescalero Apache Tribe Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/mescaleroapachetribe](http://www.facebook.com/mescaleroapachetribe).

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://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html> for more information.

**More information:**

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

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

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)