

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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REDINGTON FIRE CONTAINED

TUCSON, AZ (May 14, 2005—1530 hrs) -- Fire fighting crews have contained a wildfire east of Tucson in Redington Pass. The Redington Fire, reported yesterday at approximately 7:00 p.m. burned six acres of grass and brush in the Upper Tanque Verde Falls vicinity. Redington Road was closed at the base. Fire engines and crews from Coronado National Forest (Santa Catalina Ranger District, Nogales Ranger District, and Sierra Vista Ranger District) and Rural Metro Fire Department, along with a hand crew from Northwest Fire District responded to the incident.

The fire burned actively in the early stages. No structures were threatened. The location of the blaze, relatively close to Redington Road, enabled fire fighting resources to reach the area quickly, assess the situation, and begin suppression action. That coupled with the decrease in burning conditions brought on by nightfall facilitated swift containment while in the initial attack phase. The time of containment was 8:30 this morning. Redington Road has been reopened, and all resources have been released from the fire.

Because there was no lightning in the area at the time of ignition, the fire is being investigated as human-caused. And as such it is a fire that was unnecessary. "People must realize that there is an abundance of grass and herbaceous plant material due to the winter precipitation we received," said Rodgers Wright, Incident Commander. "That fuel is cured out now, and is extremely flammable. Visitors should be aware of fire restrictions, and use the utmost caution with fire and cigarettes."

On the Santa Catalina Ranger District, campfire permits are required year-round for visitors wishing to build fires outside of grills provided in developed recreation sites. The free permits can be obtained at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, 5700 N. Sabino Canyon Road in Tucson and at Palisades Visitor Center on Mt. Lemmon during hours of operation. As environmental conditions become hotter and drier, additional fire restrictions may be implemented.

For more information on campfire permits, please call the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center at (520) 749-8700.

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