

Davenport Fire Update Fire Information Center phone: (505) 854-2281

Date: Monday, June 28, 2004, 6 a.m.

Website: www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire

Date/Time Started: Friday, June 25, 2004; reported by Davenport Lookout at 1:45 p.m.

Location: Thirteen miles NW of Datil, NM, on north-facing slope ¼ mile E of Road 6 and ¼ mile SE of Davenport Lookout: Lat 34 16 52 N, Long 107 55 31 W

Cause: Lightning (strike had 10 witnesses 45 minutes before fire report)

Fuels: mixed ponderosa pine and juniper; heavy fuels; lots of beetle-killed trees, portions with heavy downed material

Size: 194 acres **% contained:** 70

Resources committed: 2 Helicopters, 2 Engines, 5 Hotshot crews (Type 1 crews), 4 Type 2 Hand Crews, and 6 water tenders for a total of about 225 personnel.

Cooperating Agencies: Alamo, Rio Rancho, Datil, Quemado and Pie Town Volunteer Fire Departments, New Mexico State Forestry Division, New Mexico State Police, Magdalena Marshall's Office, Catron County Sheriff, National Weather Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Predicted Weather: 40% chance of rain and thunderstorms tomorrow afternoon, high of 74. 15-20 mph SE wind, gusty and shifting near storms.

Structures Lost: none

Structures Threatened: two engines remain protecting Mohave Academy 1000 feet west and downhill from the fireline. The Academy was evacuated but students and staff should be able to return by Monday evening June 28. Davenport Lookout was evacuated but is back in limited service today as a radio communications link.

Road and Forest Closures: Road 6 is closed and monitored by State Police north of US Highway 60. The Datil Unit, Magdalena Unit, and north side of the San Mateos Unit of the Magdalena Ranger District are completely closed to public entry due to fire danger.

Restrictions: The Cibola National Forest, on which the fire is located, implemented restrictions and partial closures June 18th. Please call (505) 854-2281 for specific information on fire restrictions and open recreation areas.

Note: Media representatives wanting to visit areas of the fire should call Fire Information to set up an appointment.

Summary: Sunday morning nine elite hotshot crews were lining the fire, which was under cloud cover and received wind all day with only a trace of rain or thunder. Firefighters attempted a 40 acre fire burnout to connect two small spot fires to the main fire Sunday morning, but needed to dig line around the spot fires instead. There is lots of fire still in many pockets of heavy fuels, which have required helicopter bucket work. Hoses laid into the edge of the fire are helping firefighters dousing hot fuels. Incident Commander Steve Hawkins has set goals that hot fuels should be reduced within 50 feet of the fire's edge by Sunday night, and more than 200 feet from the fire edge by Monday night. However, the estimated date of containment is Tuesday night by 6 pm.

Crews will continue for several days to mop up and eventually "cold trail" the fire, checking for hot spots until no heat remains anywhere within the fireline. More than 200 people will be working on the fire today. The fire still has a possibility of increasing in size.

One medium helicopter will be devoted to the fire today, and a light helicopter will be located in Magdalena, available if needed. The Magdalena District responded to three small lightning fires by 5 p.m. Sunday in the Bear and Magdalena Mountains.

Smoke may settle into valleys each evening and remain through the following morning, and will remain obvious for about a week.

Concerns: Urban interface structures close to fire, dry thunderstorms with high winds, steep slopes with many dead snags, driving on narrow roads, and always public and firefighter safety.