



Southwest Area Incident Management Team

TEAM 5 – Dave Gesser– INCIDENT COMMANDER

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 for more information.

Reminder: Celebrate July 4th 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.

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

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

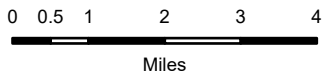
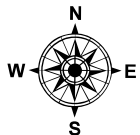
Village of Ruidoso: www.ruidoso-nm.gov/south-fork-fire

Public Information

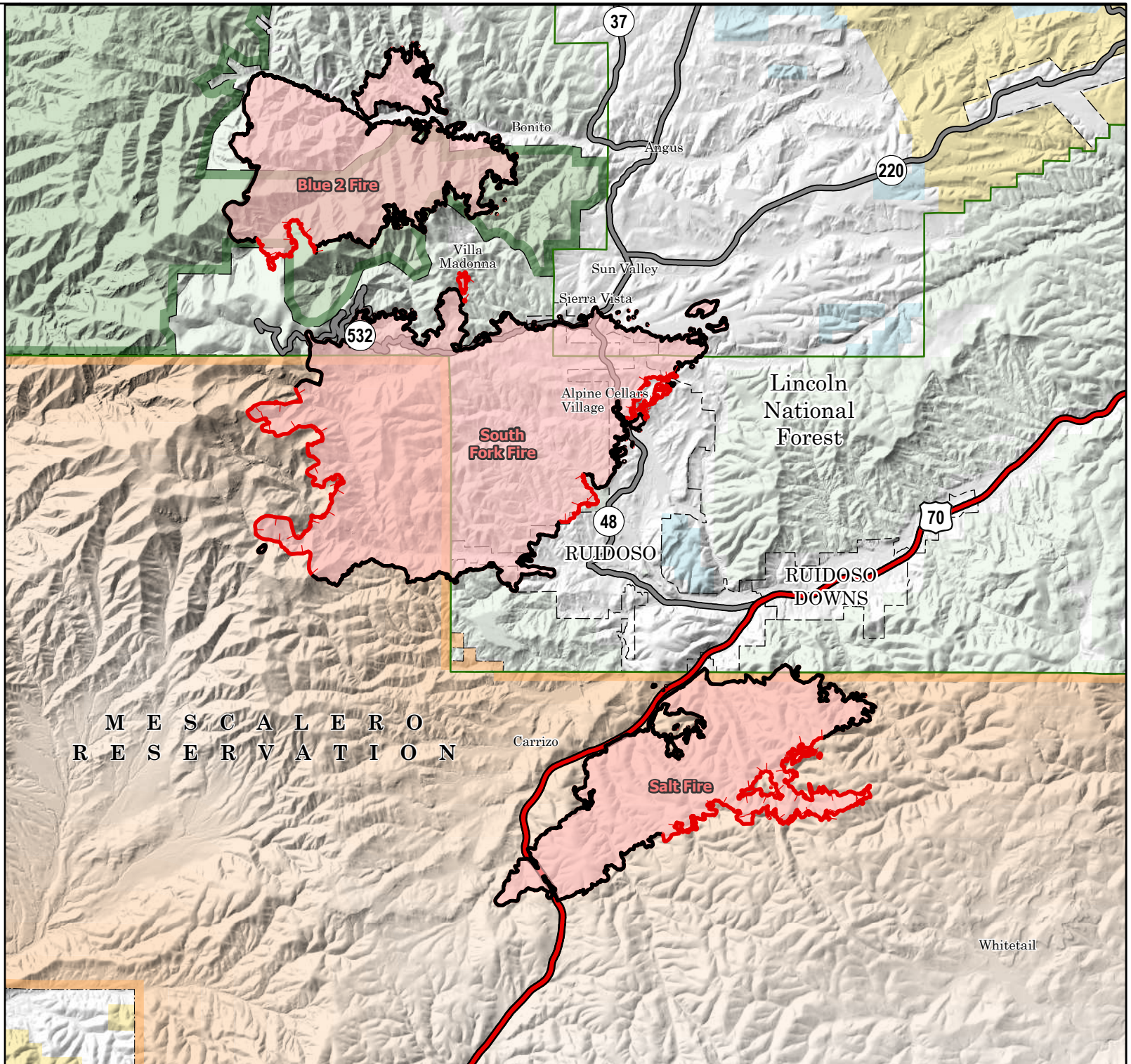
6/27/2024 Day
South Fork
NM-MEA-000382
17,569 acres at 6/24/2024 2358hr

Salt
NM-MEA-000385
7,939 acres at 6/24/2024 2358hr

- Contained
- Uncontained
- Primary Highway
- Secondary Highway
- Tribal Lands
- USFS Wilderness
- Forest Service Land
- Bureau of Land Management Lands
- State Lands
- Wildfire Daily Fire Perimeter



1:160,000 | SW IMT 5 | 6/26/2024 2032
Acres from Mixed Methods
North American 1983 Datum





Smoke Outlook

South-Central New Mexico - South Fork and Salt Fires

6/27 - 6/28

Issued by Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program on June 27, 2024 at 07:14 AM MDT

Special Statement

A flash flood watch is in effect from noon today until midnight tonight.

Fire

The South Fork Fire is 17,569 acres and 69% contained; The Salt Fire is 7,939 acres and 66% contained. Further information on each fire is available at inciweb.nwcg.gov.

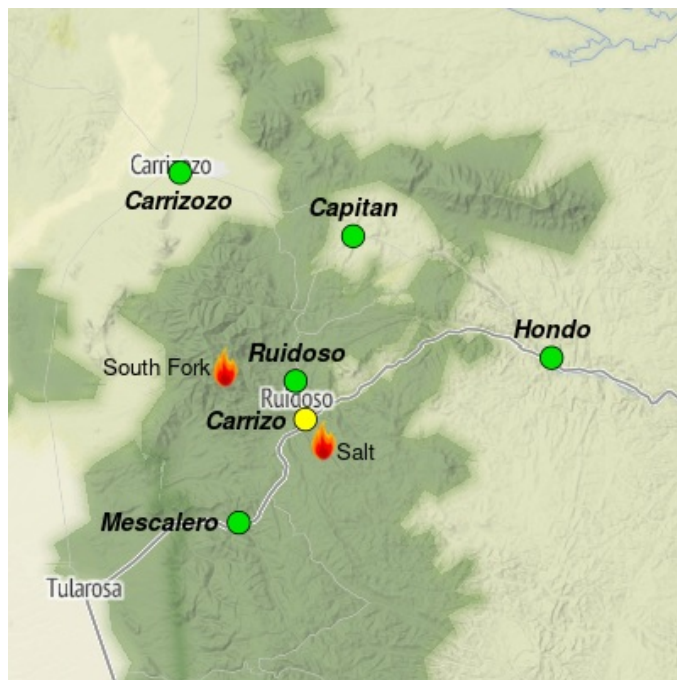
Smoke

Smoke will continue to have the biggest impact during the late overnight and morning hours for areas near the fires such as Ruidoso, Carrizo, and Ruidoso Downs. Light smoke will continue to impact Capitan, Hondo, and nearby areas with brief MODERATE air quality conditions at times. Elsewhere, such as Carrizozo and Mescalero should see GOOD air quality with minimal smoke impacts.

Showers or storms near your location could create gusty and erratic winds, which could push smoke in any direction causing brief air quality impacts.

Smoke Safety

Smoke will continue to impact air quality, especially for those near the fires. Take precautions when smoke is present by limiting outdoor activities, staying hydrated, and/or wearing a mask (N95 or P100).



Daily AQI Forecast* for Thursday

Station	Yesterday hourly			Wed 6/26	Comment for Today -- Thu, Jun 27	Forecast*	
	6a	noon	6p	Thu 6/27		Fri 6/28	
Carrizozo	No hourly data			●	GOOD air quality expected with minimal to no smoke impacts.	●	●
Mescalero	No hourly data			●	Air quality expected to remain GOOD with minimal smoke impacts.	●	●
Carrizo				●	Smoke continues during the overnight into morning with MODERATE AQI.	●	●
Ruidoso				●	GOOD AQI today into the evening hours with MODERATE AQI tonight.	●	●
Hondo				●	Air quality expected to remain GOOD with only light smoke impacts.	●	●
Capitan				●	Good air quality today but expect MODERATE AQI to return tonight.	●	●

Issued Jun 27, 2024 by Dan Byrd, Air Resource Advisor (dan.byrd@noaa.gov)

Air Quality Index (AQI)	Actions to Protect Yourself
● Good	None
● Moderate	Unusually sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion.
● USG	People within Sensitive Groups* should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.
● Unhealthy	People within Sensitive Groups* should avoid all physical outdoor activity.
● Very Unhealthy	Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
● Hazardous	Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity.

*Disclaimer: This forecast is based on fine particulates only; ozone is not included. Forecasts may be wrong; use at own risk. Use caution as conditions can change quickly. See your health professional as needed. Smoke sensitive groups should take appropriate precautions.

Additional Links

[InciWeb South Fork & Salt Fire Information](https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/nmmea-south-fork-and-salt) -- <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/nmmea-south-fork-and-salt> [NM Fire Information](https://nmfireinfo.com/) -- <https://nmfireinfo.com/>

[NM Environmental Public Health Tracking](https://nmtracking.doh.nm.gov/environment/air/FireAndSmoke.html) -- <https://nmtracking.doh.nm.gov/environment/air/FireAndSmoke.html>



Issued by Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program -- www.wildlandfiresmoke.net
South-Central New Mexico Updates -- <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/430b2c05>

*Smoke and Health Info -- www.airnow.gov/air-quality-and-health