



Southwest Area Incident Management Team

TEAM 5 – Dave Gesser– INCIDENT COMMANDER

Evacuations lifted; Crews mop-up, secure perimeter and conduct structural assessments as weather allows

Daily Update, Monday, June 24, 2024

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 – 17,551; Salt – 7,816

Location: South Fork – Ruidoso Area
Salt – 7 mile west of Mescalero, NM

Fuels: mixed conifer, grass, pine/juniper

Start Date: June 17, 2024

Personnel: 1,002

Containment: South Fork – 37%; Salt – 7%

Resources: The South Fork and Salt fires are currently staffed with 19 crews, 8 helicopters, 71 engines, 14 bulldozers, and 23 water tenders.

Highlights: Information regarding the South Fork and Salt fires, status of the surrounding communities, and other updates were provided on Sunday at the Community Meeting Facebook Live Stream. For those interested in accessing the recording, visit <https://www.facebook.com/SWIMT5>.

Fire Activity: Widespread precipitation caused localized flooding and limited firefighter access to areas across the South Fork and Salt fires on Sunday. Today, crews will focus on mop-up, clearing snags, hazard tree operations and securing the perimeter where conditions allow. Incident personnel will also continue structural assessments in neighborhoods and the fire area.

While fire behavior has reduced to smoldering and creeping in heavy duff and dead/down fuels, fire activity and smoke can increase in interior pockets of unburned fuel as warmer weather moves into the region. Residents and others traveling within the fire area should continue taking extra precautions as emergency vehicles, engines and equipment continue to travel and work along roadways.

Weather: The potential for scattered storms reduces slightly for Monday. Temperatures will be above normal with light winds. Scattered showers and thunderstorm potential will increase later in the week. After several days of rain, flash flooding and debris flows can occur faster and more abruptly, posing a safety concern for firefighters and the public.

Smoke: Smoke production will remain light to moderate on Monday. Additional details are available at <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/430b2c05>.

Evacuations: No evacuations are in place. Use www.lincolncountynm.gov and www.ruidoso-nm.gov/south-fork-fire for the latest information. More information available from the Lincoln County Emergency Operations Center at 575-258-6900.

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-notices/?aid=88199.

A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) is in place over the fire area. Public/commercial drone flights are also prohibited within this area. It is illegal for the public to fly drones within the fire area, including around private residences, businesses or other areas. 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>

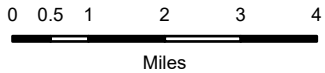
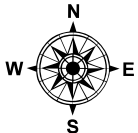
Village of Ruidoso: www.ruidoso-nm.gov/south-fork-fire

Public Information

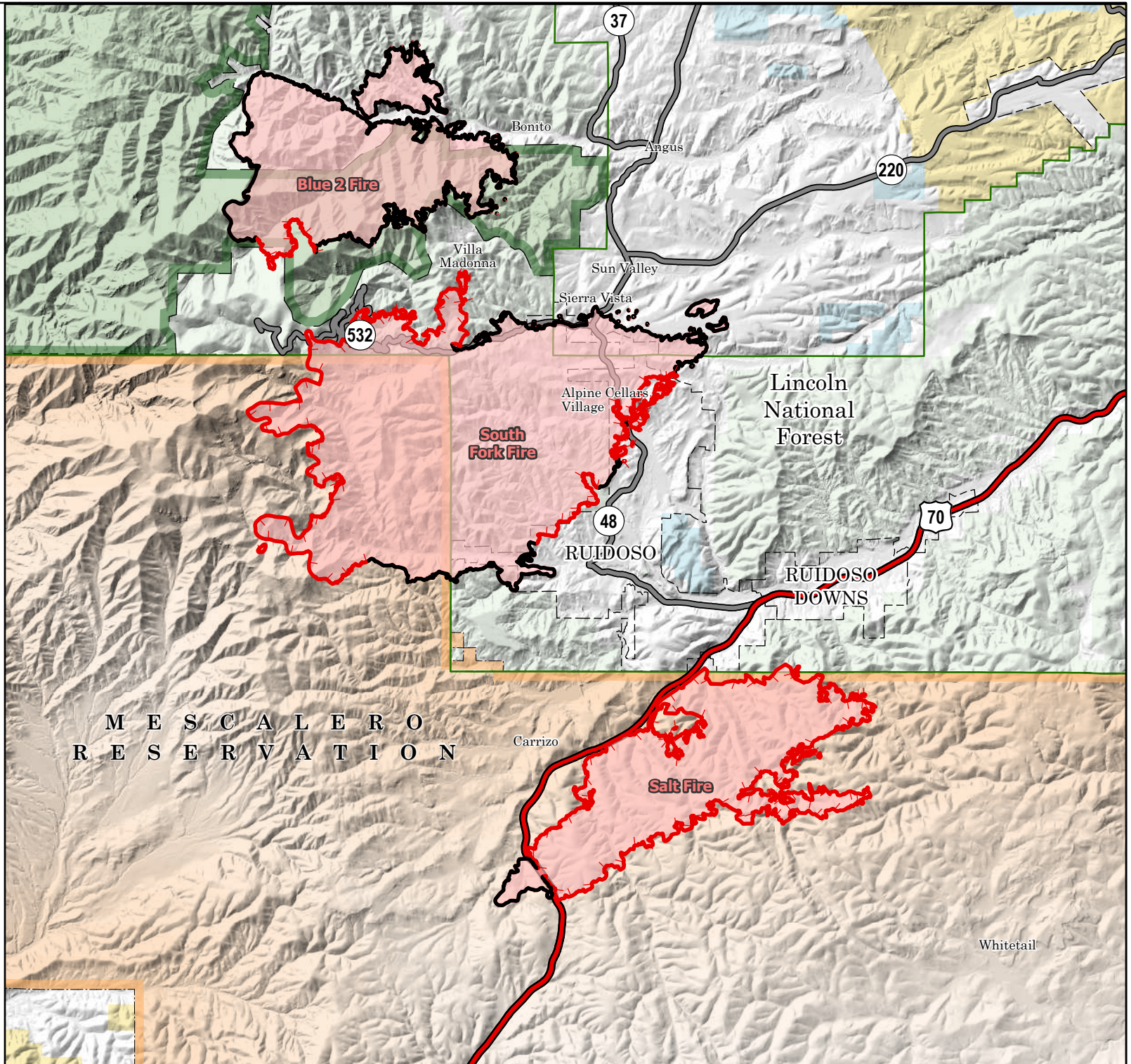
6/24/2024 Day
 South Fork
 NM-MEA-000382
 17,551 acres at 6/22/2024 1315hr

Salt
 NM-MEA-000385
 7,816 acres at 6/23/2024 1733hr

-  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 | 6/23/2024 2037
 Acres from Mixed Methods
 North American 1983 Datum





Smoke Outlook

South-Central New Mexico - South Fork and Salt Fires

6/24 - 6/25

Issued by Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program on June 24, 2024 at 06:34 AM MDT

Fire

The South Fork Fire is 17,551 acres and 37% contained; The Salt Fire is 7,816 acres and 7% contained. Further information on each fire is available at inciweb.nwcg.gov.

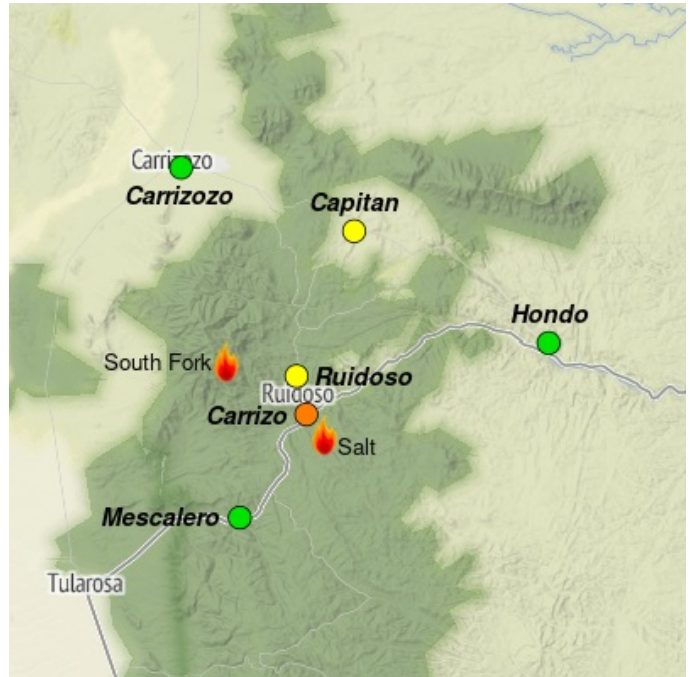
Smoke

Smoke will have the highest impacts during the late overnight and morning hours, primarily for areas near the fires such as **Ruidoso, Carrizo, and Ruidoso Downs**. **Air quality will likely reach UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS or even UNHEALTHY for a brief period during the morning.** Smoke will also likely continue to impact Capitan, Hondo, and nearby areas with at least MODERATE air quality at times during the overnight and morning hours. Elsewhere, such as Carrizozo and Mescalero should see GOOD air quality with minimal smoke impacts.

All areas should see GOOD air quality during much of the late afternoon into evening hours, especially if showers or storms are overhead. Showers or storms nearby though could create gusty and erratic winds which could push smoke in any direction causing brief air quality impacts to any location.

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). Precautions are especially important if you are sensitive to smoke. **If you smell smoke, you are breathing smoke.**



Daily AQI Forecast* for Monday

Station	Yesterday hourly			Sun 6/23	Comment for Today -- Mon, Jun 24	Forecast*	
	6a	noon	6p			Mon 6/24	Tue 6/25
Carrizozo	No hourly data				GOOD air quality conditions expected with minimal smoke impacts.	Green	Green
Capitan				Yellow	Occasional smoke and MODERATE air quality expected at times.	Yellow	Yellow
Hondo	No hourly data				GOOD air quality overall but some smoke and MODERATE air quality at times.	Green	Green
Ruidoso				Yellow	Smoke during the late overnight into morning hours with MODERATE to USG AQI.	Yellow	Yellow
Carrizo				Yellow	Smoke will cause air quality that is UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS at times.	Orange	Orange
Mescalero	No hourly data				Air quality expected to remain GOOD with minimal smoke impacts.	Green	Green

Issued Jun 24, 2024 by Jayson Prentice, Air Resource Advisor (Jayson.Prentice@ks.gov)

Air Quality Index (AQI)	Actions to Protect Yourself
Green Good	None
Yellow Moderate	Unusually sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion.
Orange USG	People within Sensitive Groups* should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.
Red Unhealthy	People within Sensitive Groups* should avoid all physical outdoor activity.
Purple Very Unhealthy	Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
Brown 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>
- [Smoke Ready Information and Resources](https://www.wildlandfiresmoke.net/smoke-ready/smoke-ready-social-media) -- <https://www.wildlandfiresmoke.net/smoke-ready/smoke-ready-social-media>



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