

News Release

Southwest Area Type II Incident Management Team

For Immediate Release

Date: June 26, 2008

12:00 p.m.

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928-339-4124

Hot Air Wildfire Continues Burning Along Highway 191

Springerville, AZ – The Hot Air Wildfire continues to burn northeast along Highway 191. Firefighters continue to burn out along the highway, and are working to protect the Rose Peak Lookout and electronic site on the southern end of the fire. A Hot Shot Crew is working to secure the northwest corner of the fire, south of East Eagle Creek.

Highway 191 remains closed at Forest Road 25 on the north end. Please drive cautiously through this area as fire personnel and vehicles are traveling throughout this area. On the south end Highway 191 is closed at mile post 202 below Rose Peak. This section of highway will remain closed until fire conditions permit safe travel along the Highway. Fire officials can not predict an opening date as weather and fire conditions are unpredictable.

Estimated size of the fire this morning is 5,600 acres, however, this acreage may change after an aerial flight with mapping equipment occurs today. No residences or Forest Service buildings are currently threatened. Three Hot Shot Crews, five engines and one helicopter are working the fire. There are currently a total of 115 people assigned to the Hot Air fire.

All Campgrounds, including KP Cienega and Hannagan Meadow, remain open. An area closure has been implemented, and the following trails are closed: Mud Springs Trail #49, and Bear Canyon Trail #46. Portions of Forest Roads 217-J and 217-I remain open. All roads and trails within the fire closure area are closed. Please contact the Clifton Ranger District Office at (928) 687-8600 for more detailed information.

Visitors to the area are encouraged to contact the Clifton or Alpine Ranger District offices for any additional questions regarding roads, trails and campgrounds. Fire information can be obtained by calling the 593 Joint Information Line at (928) 333-3412, (928) 339-4124, or by visiting www.593info.org.

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