

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
Santa Fe National Forest



For Immediate Release

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MESA CAMINO AND VALLES FIRES CONTINUE TO BURN ON THE SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST

Mesa Camino Fire, Coyote Ranger District

The Mesa Camino Fire was reported as **60% contained** this morning. Air support resources will continue to be used today in response to the potential for another day of active fire behavior. Expected lower temperatures could assist firefighting efforts. A Type II Team will be managing the fire starting Thursday, May 26. This will allow Forest resources to be available for initial attack over the Memorial Day weekend. There are a total of 195 people committed to the fire.

Acres: 832 acres, including the original planned prescribed fire acreage of 150 acres

Start date: Monday, May 23, 2005

Location: 5 miles north of Coyote, New Mexico

Containment: 60%

Fuels: Oak, Ponderosa Pine, and Mixed Conifer

Crews: Five Type II handcrews and two Type I Hotshot Crews (Zuni and Pleasant Valley)

Equipment: Eleven Type VI engines, three water tenders

Air Support: One Type I (heavy) Helicopter, two single engine airtankers, two heavy airtankers.

Miscellaneous overhead: Type III Team.

Threats: None. The fire is burning in a remote location and there are no immediate threats to life or private property. The extreme eastern edge of the fire has spilled into the Chama River Wilderness. Forest Roads 64, 77 and 170 are closed to protect public health and safety.

Valle Fire – Valles Caldera National Preserve

Fire spotting behavior has increased the area involved to 140 acres. Steep terrain with heavy fuels and snags make fire fighting difficult. There are 100 people committed to the fire.

Acres: 140 acres

Start date: Monday, May 23, 2005

Location: Near the crest of Cerro del Medio, approximately 4 miles north of State Hwy 4

Containment: 5%

Fuels: Mixed conifer

Crews: Two Type II Handcrews and two Type I Hotshot Crews (Mount Taylor and Smokey Bear)

Equipment: Two Type III engines, one water tender, one dozer and one ambulance

Air Support: One Type II (medium) helicopter

Miscellaneous overhead: Type III Team.

Threats: None. The fire is burning in a remote location with no immediate threats to life or private property.

The Forest Service is not anticipating any Forest Closures or Fire Restrictions at this time, but would like to remind everyone to be extremely careful with fire this

Memorial Day weekend!

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