



Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Melanie A Kenderdine, Cabinet Secretary-Designate
Dylan M. Fuge, Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Laura McCarthy, State Forester

Wildfire Notification #9

The New Mexico Forestry Division would like to update you on two wildfires that are requiring the attention of federal, state, and local resources in New Mexico. The [Blue 2](#) and [Indios](#) fires are burning on public lands and are being managed by a Complex Incident Management Team and the US Forest Service, respectively.

Blue 2 Fire

Highlights: Firefighters are working during day and night shifts to suppress the fire. Firefighters are continuing to build fireline using hand tools and bulldozers. Air resources are dropping water and fire retardant to slow the progress of the fire and reinforce firelines. During nighttime operations, firefighters are conducting burnout operations to consume the fuel between the fireline and the edge of the fire. This tactic helps to strengthen the fireline and reduce movement of the fire. Firefighters have been placing sprinklers and hoses around houses for structure protection.

Fire Activity: Although the fire continues to burn during the day and night due to high temperatures and dry conditions, it has had little movement.

Weather: Persistent winds with a warming and drying trend over the next few days.

Closures: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/lincoln/alerts-notice>

Evacuations: For the latest information:
https://www.lincolncountynm.gov/news_detail_T2_R25.php

For Ready, Set, Go Status definitions, please visit: <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/fire-prevention-programs/ready-set-go-new-mexico/>

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Acres: 6,863

Start Date: May 16, 2024

Location: White Mountain Wilderness approximately 8 miles North of Ruidoso

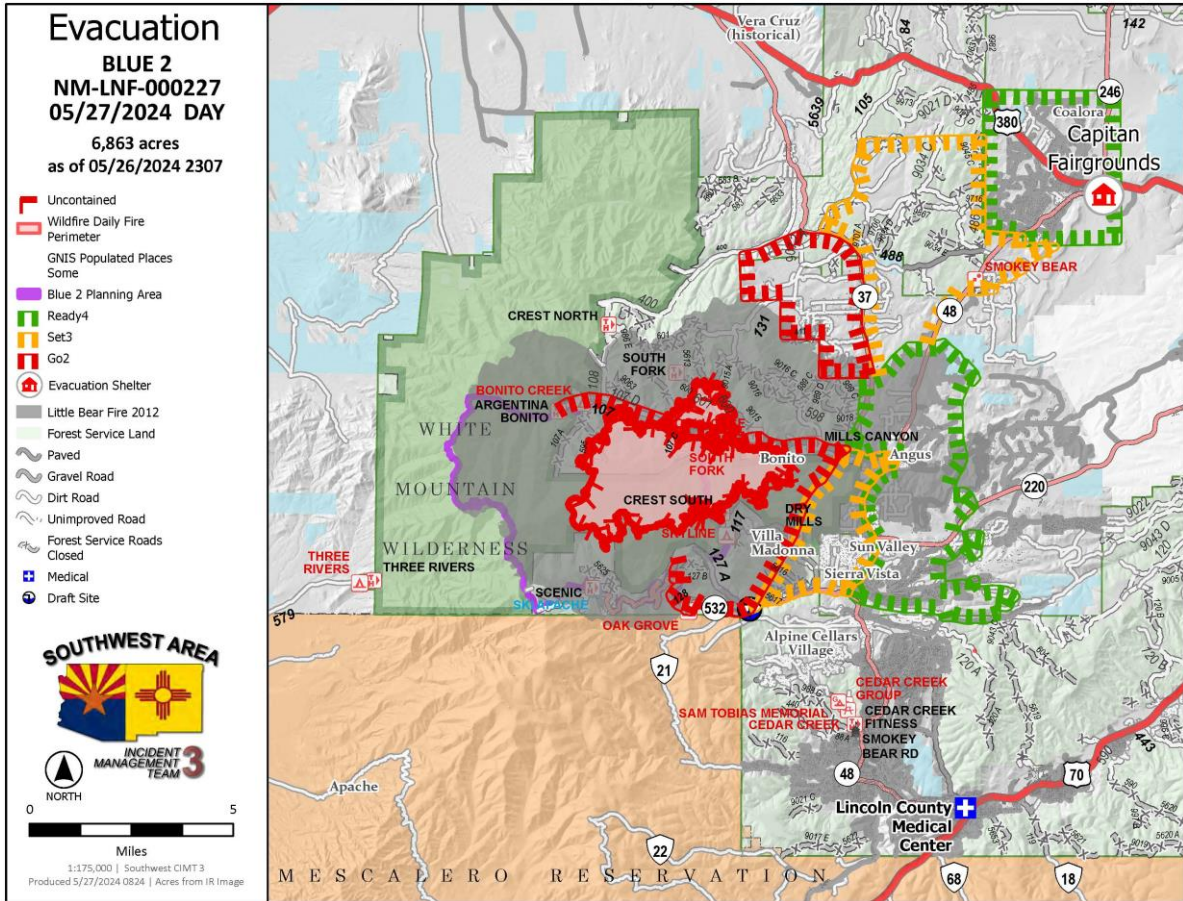
Personnel: 532

Cause: Lightning

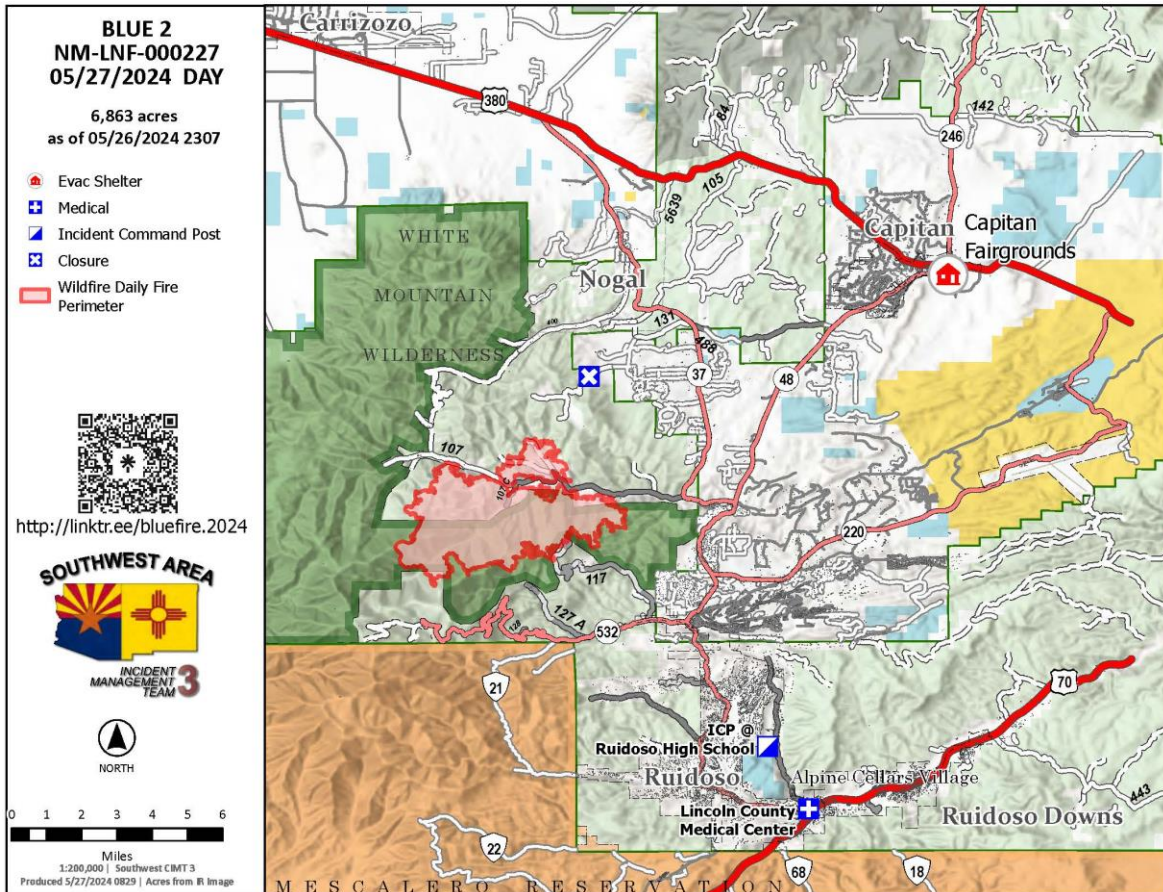
Containment: 0%

Fuels: Timber (litter and understory)

Resources: 11 crews | 23 engines | 4 helicopters | 2 bulldozers
Fire Information Phone Number: (575) 386-5077; open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Media Phone Number: 575-386-9105; open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Inciweb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/nmlnf-blue-2-fire>



Evacuation map of the Blue 2 fire



Map of the Blue 2 fire

Indios Fire

Highlights: The Southwest Area Complex Incident Management Team 4 assumed command of the lightning caused Indios Fire at 7:00 AM this morning, Monday, May 27, 2024. A complex team brings additional resources and management capabilities to manage the Indios Fire. Incident objectives include protecting values at risk and meeting Santa Fe National Forest Plan objectives by reintroducing fire into a fire dependent ecosystem. Expected benefits include reduction of hazardous fuels, encouraging native growth, and improving range and watershed conditions, species diversity, and wildlife habitat.

Operations: Despite windy conditions, the fire has been predominantly driven by topography in steep, rugged terrain in the Chama River Canyon Wilderness. Firefighters continue to construct firelines by removing vegetation along existing roads and tying into natural features, such as rocky cliffs, around the fire area. Crews are strategically applying low intensity fire along Forest Road 77 to remove vegetation between a previous wildfire burned area and the main fire to prevent fire spread to the east. Firefighters have conducted aerial reconnaissance missions and observed beneficial fire effects across the landscape. Fire crews are working to minimize adverse fire impacts to federal and private lands including watersheds, natural and cultural

resources, range, and agricultural infrastructure, and preserving landscape characteristics in the Chama River Canyon Wilderness. Additionally, firefighters are working strategically to minimize smoke impacts to communities and critical travel corridors to the extent possible.

Weather: A high pressure system will build over the area over the next few days resulting in increased temperatures and lower humidity. Mid-level clouds will develop over the mountains in the region bringing a slight potential for precipitation in the region by Tuesday or Wednesday.

Smoke: Smoke from the Indios Fire became more visible in the surrounding communities yesterday, including Espanola and Abiquiu. Winds are expected to assist with smoke dispersal this afternoon. Smoke-sensitive individuals and people with respiratory problems or heart disease are encouraged to take precautionary measures. Learn more about smoke impacts on the New Mexico Environment Department website at <https://www.env.nm.gov/air-quality/fire-smoke-links/>. An interactive smoke map at <https://fire.airnow.gov/> allows you to zoom into your area to see the latest smoke conditions.

Closures: The Santa Fe National Forest has issued an emergency area closure for the Indios Fire. The purpose of the closure order is to protect public health and safety and the safety of all personnel working the fire. The full closure order (No. 03-12-05-23-22) and map are available on Inciweb. Camping and water will be available at the Coyote Ranger Station for Continental Divide Trail hikers impacted by this closure.

Safety: The health and safety of firefighters and the public are always the first priority. Members of the public should stay away from Indios Fire operations. A temporary flight restriction (TFR) is in place over the area, which includes uncrewed aircraft or drones. More information on the dangers drones pose to wildland firefighting aircraft and personnel on the ground can be found at: <https://uas.nifc.gov/>.

More Information: inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/nmsnf-indios-wildfire/ / [575-323-2290](tel:575-323-2290) / x.com/SantafeNF / facebook.com/santafeNF / 2024.indios@firenet.gov

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Acres: 4,210

Start Date: 5/19/2024

Location: 7 miles north of the village of Coyote, NM

Personnel: 292

Containment: 0%

Fuels: Timber

Holiday Safety

Keeping in mind a high potential for wildfire starts through out the state, the Forestry Division would like to remind everyone to be safe and aware of their surroundings this Memorial Day.

Know before you go: When heading into the great outdoors, be sure to check the weather, and be sure to check and what restrictions are in place wherever you're choosing to go. A list of New Mexico State Parks fire restrictions [can be found here](#).

Once you're there: Be smart and be safe. Human-caused fires are the result of making bad decisions. Smoking, parking cars over tall grass, loose tow chains, and working outside with equipment: these are some of the biggest human causes of fire starts in New Mexico. In short -- be aware of your surroundings. Understand that the actions you take have consequences. Use good judgement.

