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Wildfire Notification #10

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 Complex Incident Management Teams.

Blue 2 Fire

Highlights: Firefighters continue to use direct tactics to build fire line along the fire's edge using hand tools and bulldozers while ensuring safety for all crews. Air resources are dropping water and retardant along the fire lines for reinforcement purposes and to cool down the most active parts of the fire. A feller buncher is being used in the Ski Run Road area to remove debris and allow crews to gain access for suppression efforts. Firefighters continue to place sprinklers and hoses around houses for structure protection.

Fire Activity: The fire is producing more smoke and continues to be active, even during the nighttime, because of hot temperatures and dry conditions.

Weather: Although there are less winds, it is very dry with little chance of rain and hot temperatures.

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: 7,178

Start Date: May 16, 2024

Location: White Mountain Wilderness approximately 8 miles North of Ruidoso

Personnel: 533

Cause: Lightning

Containment: 0%

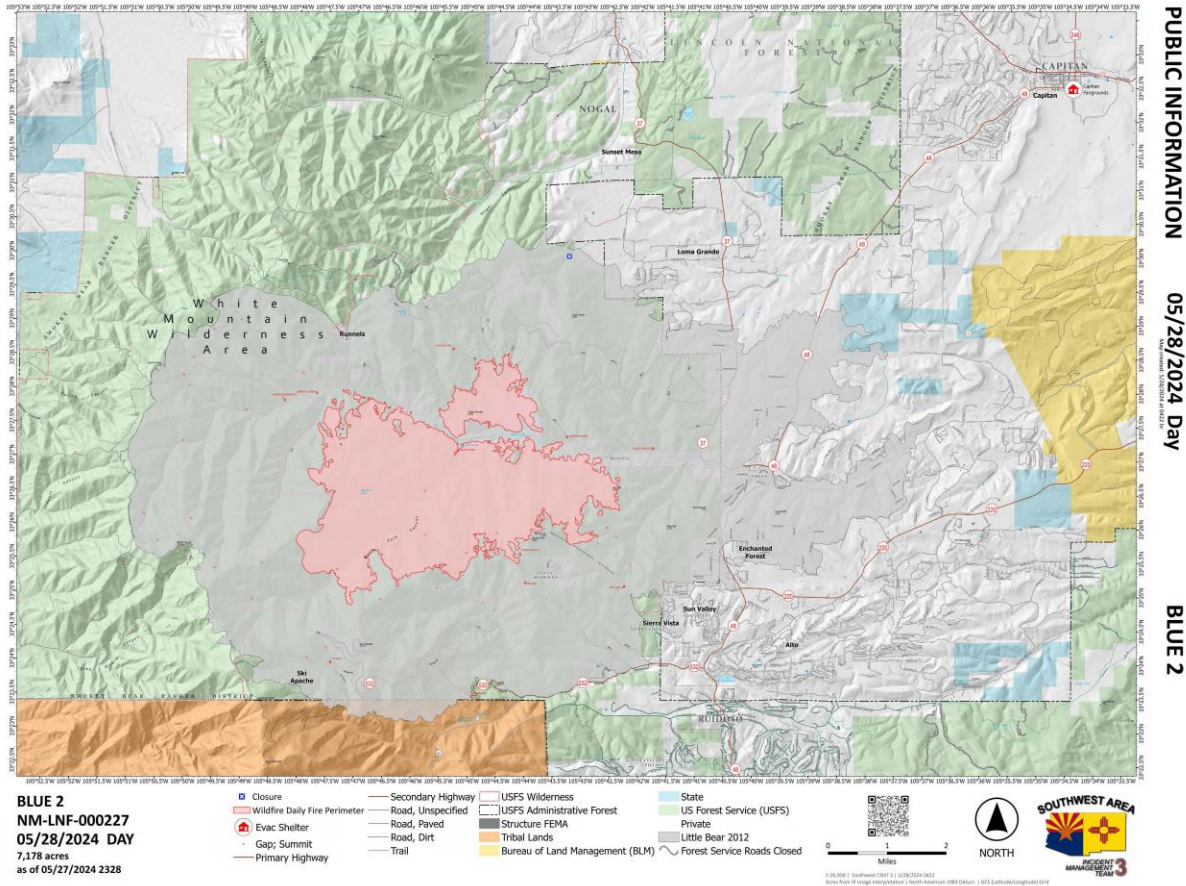
Fuels: Timber (litter and understory)

Resources: 10 crews | 32 engines | 6 helicopters | 6 bulldozers | 5 Water Tenders

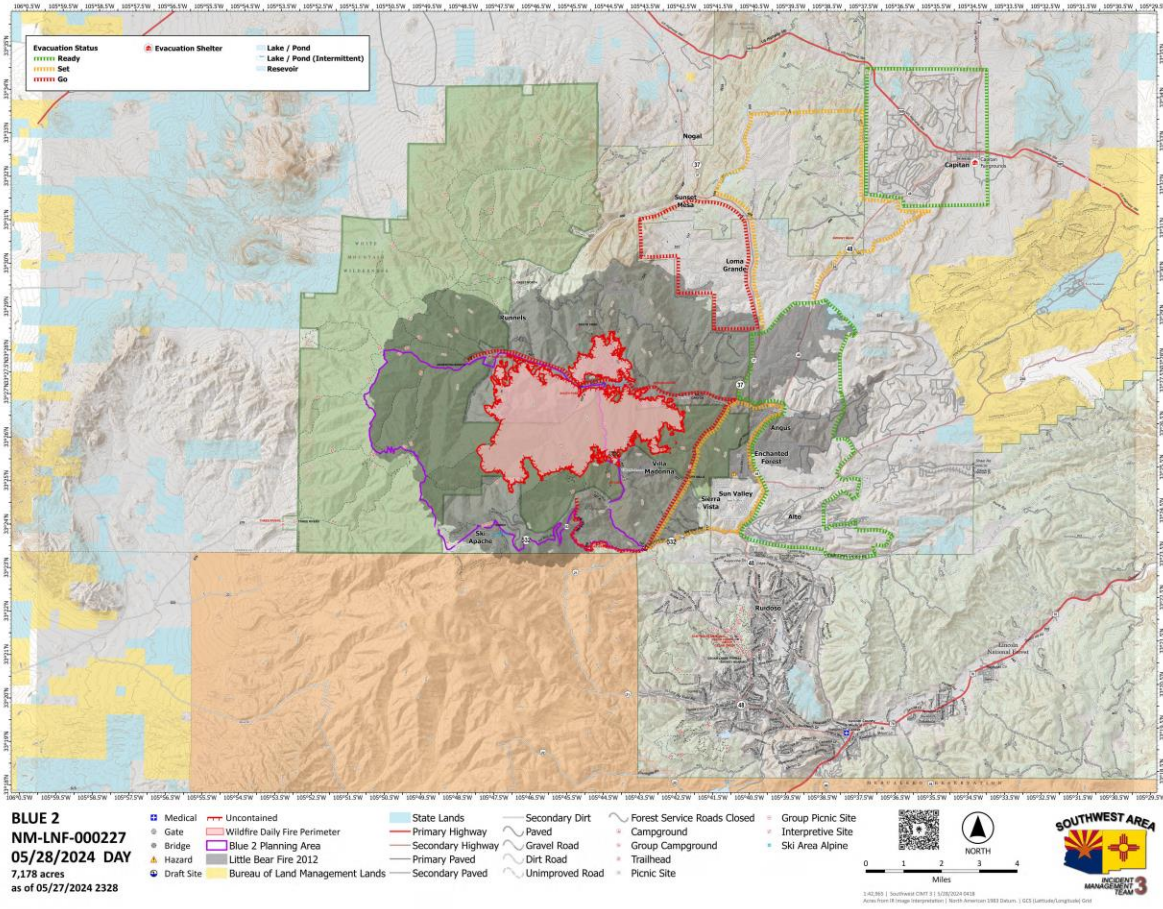
Fire Information Phone Number: (575) 386-5077; open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Media Phone Number: 575-386-5108; open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Blue 2 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Blue2Fire>



Map of the Blue 2 fire



EVACUATION
 05/28/2024 Day
 BLUE 2

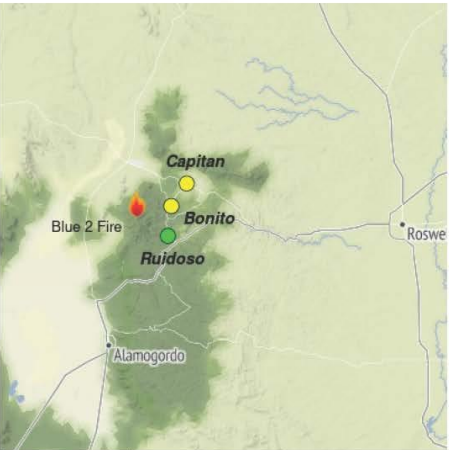
Evacuation map of the Blue 2 fire

 **Smoke Outlook** 5/28 - 5/29
South-Central New Mexico Blue 2 Fire

Issued by Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program on May 28, 2024 at 07:26 AM MDT

Fire
 Warm and very dry conditions are with us for at least the next few days, so fire will remain active. For more detailed fire information see: Blue 2 Fire on Inciweb. As always, stay alert to changing conditions.

Smoke
 Smoke will continue to drain into and settle along the Highway 48 corridor. As fire activity picks up in the afternoon, smoke will move to points northeast of the activity. Capitan and communities northeast of the fire could see periods of heavy smoke and USG/UNHEALTHY air quality this evening. Predominant winds should keep smoke pushed away from Ruidoso and points south and west of the fire. GOOD air quality is expected for Ruidoso, however skies may seem a bit hazy.



Daily AQI Forecast* for Tuesday

Station	Yesterday hourly		Mon 5/27	Forecast*	Tue 5/28	Wed 5/29
	6a	noon	6p			
Ruidoso	No hourly data			GOOD air quality expected with hazy skies.	●	●
Capitan	No hourly data			MODERATE air quality thru the day with potential for heavy smoke this evening.	●	●
Bonito			●	MODERATE air quality with potential periods of heavy smoke in the evening.	●	●

Issued May 28, 2024 by Jill Webster, Air Resource Advisor, (jill.webster@usda.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
 AirNow Fire and Smoke Map -- <https://fire.airnow.gov/#>
 Issued by Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program -- www.wildlandfiresmoke.net
 South-Central New Mexico Updates -- <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/43062c05>
 *Smoke and Health Info -- www.airnow.gov/air-quality-and-health

Smoke Outlook for Blue 2 fire.

Indios Fire

Highlights: Fire managers are measuring progress on the lightning-caused Indios Fire in terms of percent completion of management objectives, rather than traditional percent containment. Percent completion of objectives more accurately reports the specific amount of work accomplished on the ground to manage fire spread and reduce the negative impacts to communities, infrastructure, and other identified values. Using percent completion illustrates the accomplishment of objectives each day.

On the Indios Fire, the intended operational objectives are to reintroduce fire into a fire-dependent ecosystem to reduce future wildfire severity. Benefits will include reduction of hazardous fuels, encouraging native growth, and improving range and watershed conditions,

species diversity, and wildlife habitat.

Operations: Firefighters continue efforts to confine the Indios Fire within the planning area. Confinement is a wildfire response strategy that restricts a wildfire to a defined area, primarily using natural barriers. Additional response actions are sometimes needed to augment or connect natural barriers. Firefighters are focusing on prepping the perimeter of the confinement area by removing and chipping vegetation along existing roads and constructing handlines to connect and build a continuous boundary to restrict fire spread. Yesterday, crews placed a 10,000-gallon portable water tank near the western portion of the fire to provide a water source for fire management activities. Uncrewed aircraft systems (i.e., drones) were used to aerially ignite an unburned area to close the gap between two actively burning areas on the eastern portion of the fire. Firefighters will continue handline construction and fuels reduction activities in the coming days.

Weather: Over the next few days, potential thunderstorm activity will move over eastern New Mexico. This weather activity brings a 30% chance of precipitation today with mid-level moisture leading to wind gusts on the surface. Weather conditions should be conducive to beneficial fire effects into the afternoon and early evening.

Smoke: Smoke from the Indios Fire may continue to be visible in the surrounding communities. 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 on 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 systems 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 / x.com/SantafeNF / facebook.com/santafeNF / 2024.indios@firenet.gov

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Acres: 4,844

Start Date: 5/19/2024

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

Personnel: 440

Completion: 0%

Fuels: Timber



Smoke Outlook

North-Central New Mexico Indios Fire

5/28 - 5/29

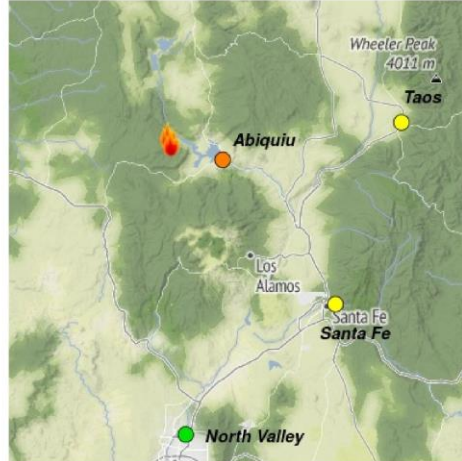
Issued by Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program on May 28, 2024 at 07:39 AM MDT

Fire

Currently at 4,709 acres, the Indios Fire, driven by topography in steep, rugged terrain is burning approx. 7 miles north of Coyote, NM, in the Chama River Canyon Wilderness. Lighter winds with dryer conditions Tuesday into Wednesday will promote active burning, with flanking, backing, smoldering fire behavior. A chance of showers today through midweek brings the threat of gusty erratic winds. High pressure over the area will continue to increase warmer temperatures through the week. As conditions dry and more vegetation becomes available to burn, fire behavior is expected to increase until more significant moisture moves into the area.

Smoke

Westerly winds have brought smoke east and northeast of the fire, primarily impacting communities along the Chamas River and Abiquiu Reservoir. Communities of Coyote, Youngsville, and along the Chama River to the Abiquiu Reservoir will experience overnight drainage smoke that disperses with midday mixing. Travel corridors along Hwy 84 and Hwy 96, east of the fire to the Abiquiu Dam, will experience smoky conditions, increasing visible smoke with daytime fire activity. Gusty Winds in the afternoon will assist with smoke dispersal. MODERATE to UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS air quality conditions are forecast for areas immediately east of the fire. Additional smoke impacts will depend on fire behavior with dryer and warmer conditions building in by midweek. This is the first smoke outlook for the Indios Fire. Additional smoke monitoring capabilities have been ordered and will be active by midweek.



Daily AQI Forecast* for Tuesday

Station	Yesterday hourly			Mon 5/27	Comment for Today -- Tue, May 28	Forecast*	
	6a	noon	6p			Tue 5/28	Wed 5/29
Abiquiu	No hourly data				USG air quality from overnight drainage smoke, decreasing with midday mixing.	Orange	Orange
Santa Fe				Green	Overnight drainage smoke potential, GOOD to MOD air quality.	Yellow	Yellow
North Valley ABQ				Green	Overall GOOD air quality, daytime smoke may be visible.	Green	Green
Taos				Green	Light to Moderate daytime smoke during peak fire behavior.	Yellow	Yellow

Issued May 28, 2024 by

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.
Dark Purple (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

Indios Fire -- <https://incweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/nmsnf-indios-wildfire> Fire & Smoke Map -- <https://fire.airnow.gov/>
 New Mexico Fire Info -- <https://nmfireinfo.com/>



Issued by Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program -- www.wildlandfiresmoke.net
 North-Central New Mexico Updates -- <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/b11764df>
 *Smoke and Health Info -- www.airnow.gov/air-quality-and-health

Indios Fire Smoke Outlook 5/28