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Melanie A Kenderdine, Cabinet Secretary-Designate
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Wildfire Notification #11

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 multiple tactics to fully suppress the fire. Hotshots have been igniting fuels by hand near Bonito Creek Campground on the northwest side of the fire to bring the fire safely down to the road. They are also setting up sprinklers near the intersection of Tanbark Canyon road and the 107 road. On Soldier Mountain, hotshots connected handline all the way around the spot that is north of the 107 road and will continue reinforcing this line. Crews are also removing fuels in preparation to build more fireline using bulldozers along the Forest Service boundary. Sprinklers and hoses set up in Villa Madonna are tested daily and supplied with water. Retardant was dropped on the southern side of the fire to allow crews to continue working along the fire's edge. On the southwest side of the fire, crews are improving the Crest Trail to use as a holding feature if needed. The public should expect to see smoke across the fire area.

Fire Activity: Smoke will be visible during the day because of active fire burning within the fire area.

Weather: Breezy winds continue with very dry 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/>

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.

Email address: 2024.blue2@firenet.gov

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Acres: 7,402

Start Date: May 16, 2024

Location: White Mountain Wilderness approximately 8 miles North of Ruidoso

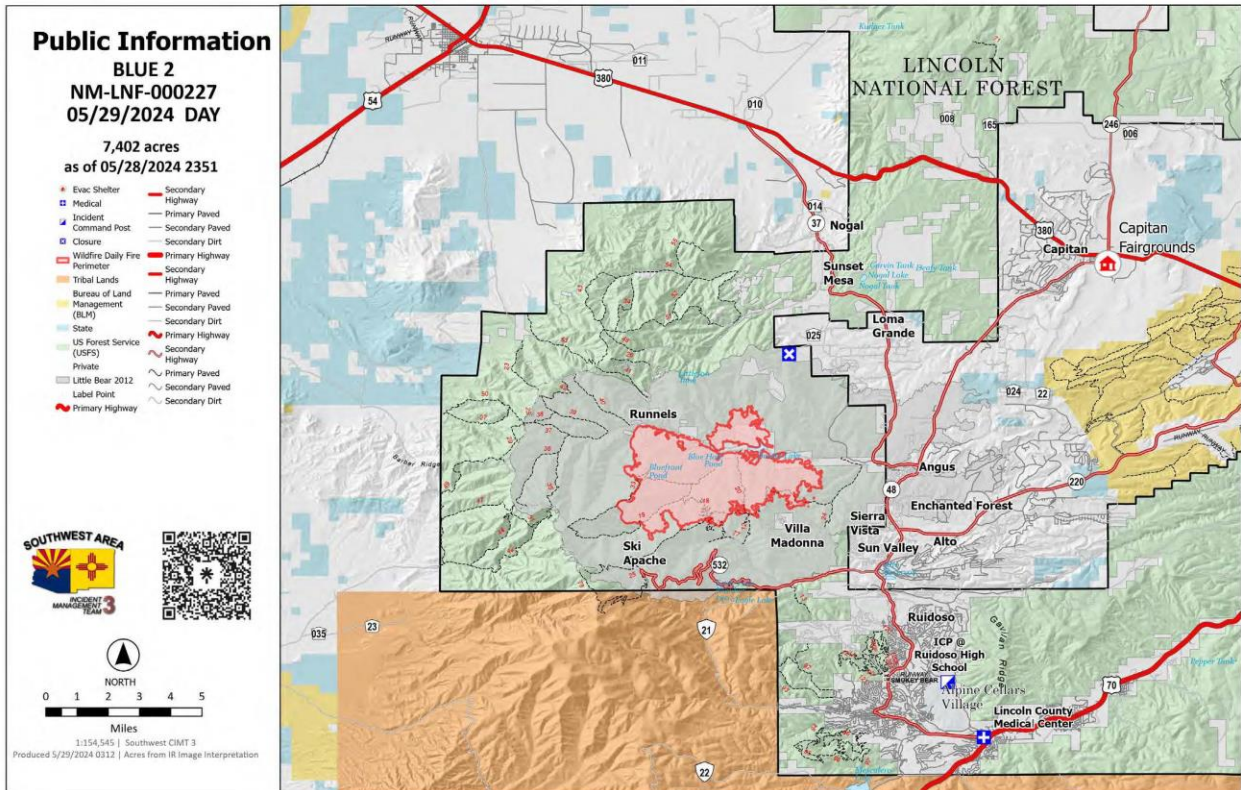
Personnel: 643

Cause: Lightning

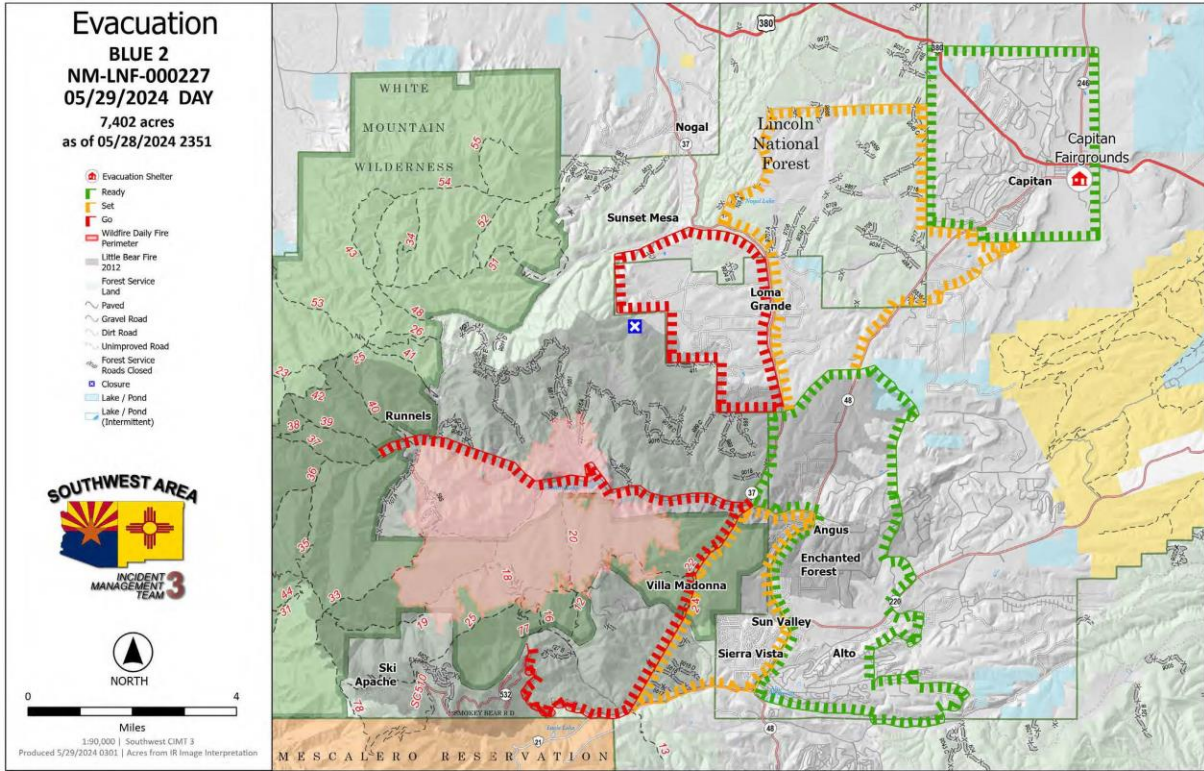
Containment: 0%

Fuels: Timber (litter and understory)

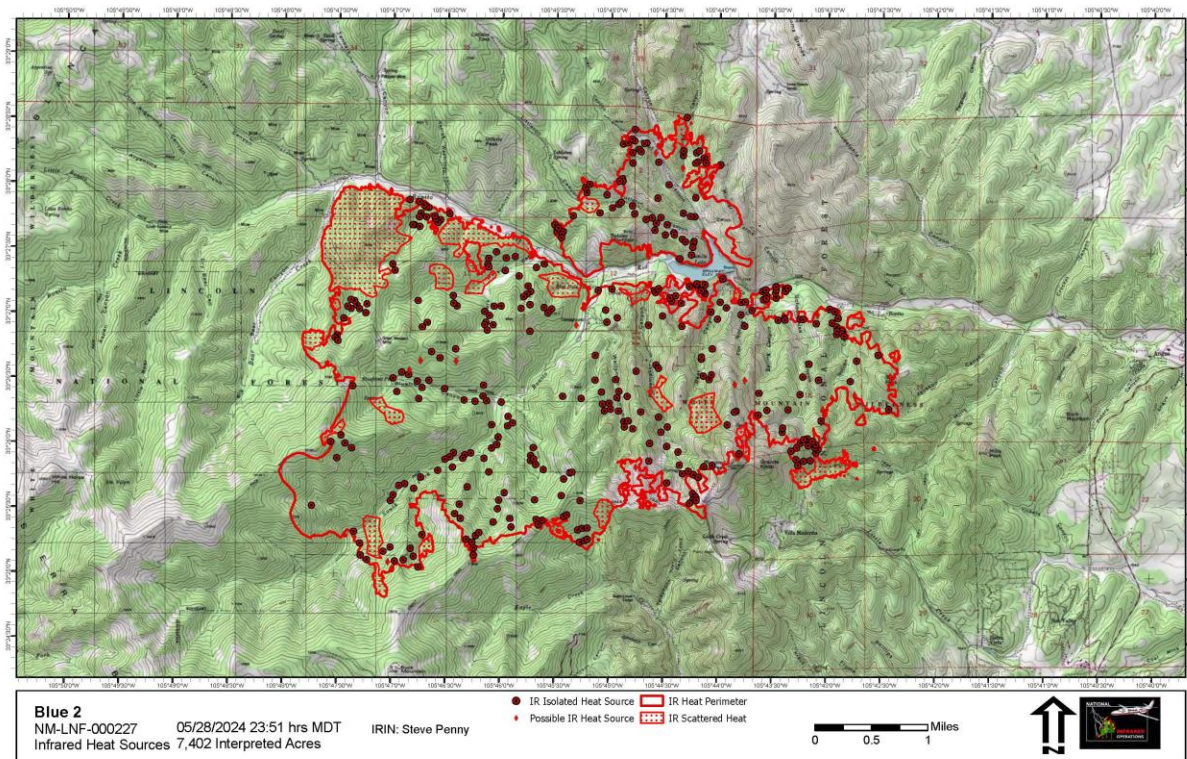
Resources: 12 crews | 38 engines | 7 helicopters | 9 bulldozers | 10 Water Tenders



Map of the Blue 2 fire



Evacuation map of the Blue 2 fire



Topographical map of the Blue 2 fire



Smoke Outlook

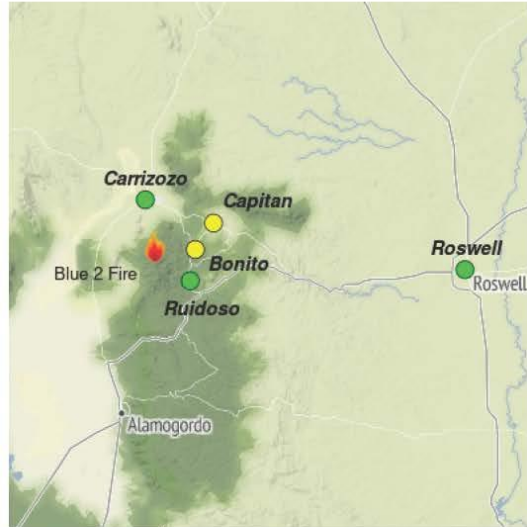
South-Central New Mexico Blue 2 Fire

5/29 - 5/30

Issued by Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program on May 29, 2024 at 07:45 AM MDT

Fire
 An push of moisture from the east brought higher humidity overnight, but conditions will quickly dry out this afternoon. Wind driven fire continues to burn in heavy, downed fuels and dry grasses. Fuels are approaching peak dryness. For more detailed fire information see: [Blue 2 Fire on Inciweb](#). As always, stay alert to changing conditions.

Smoke
 A brief change in wind direction overnight, pushed some smoke west, back onto the fire itself. Bonito and Capitan cleared overnight, but will come back to periods of heavy smoke this afternoon as dry conditions and southwest winds return. Carrizozo will maintain overall GOOD air quality, but there is a potential for brief periods of light smoke this evening. Predominate southwest winds should keep smoke north of Ruidoso and hazy conditions this morning should clear by the afternoon. No smoke is expected as far east as Roswell, but the area could see some light haze in the skies in the coming days.



Daily AQI Forecast for Wednesday

Station	Yesterday hourly		Tue 5/28	Forecast*	Wed 5/29	Thu 5/30
	6a	noon	9p			
Capitan	No hourly data			MODERATE air quality thru the day with potential for heavy smoke this evening.	Yellow	Yellow
Bonito	No hourly data		Yellow	MODERATE air quality with potential periods of heavy smoke in the evening.	Yellow	Yellow
Roswell	No hourly data			GOOD air quality expected.	Green	Green
Carrizozo	No hourly data			GOOD air quality expected with potential periods of smoke in the evening.	Green	Green
Ruidoso	No hourly data			GOOD air quality with some haze.	Green	Green

Issued May 29, 2024 by Jill Webster, Air Resource Advisor, (Jill.Webster@usda.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.
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

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 have updated their assessment of accomplishments and increased to 5% completion of operational objectives for the Indios Fire.

The incident management team will provide an opportunity for the public to meet with fire managers and ask questions about the Indios Fire at an open house on Thursday, May 30, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the lecture hall at the Coronado High School, 1903 NM-96, Gallina, NM.

Operations: Yesterday, firefighters observed increased fire activity on the western side due to light winds, warmer temperatures, and drier conditions. Aircraft with infrared sensors flew at 16,000 feet above ground level to detect and monitor fire growth to inform firefighting actions. The fire moved south down the interior edge of the fire area while crews worked to strategically apply a low intensity burn ahead of the main fire to prevent southern movement past Forest Road 77. Fire behavior specialists predict the fire will continue to slowly advance through the planned confinement area as the fire naturally aligns with winds and deep canyons. Firefighters are using several helicopters to drop water to cool the fire's intensity, slow its progress, and reduce smoke impacts. As crews continue working, Resource Advisors are assisting firefighters in identifying and avoiding impacts to sensitive cultural and wildlife resources. To minimize dust impacts to communities, fire engines are applying water to highly traveled dirt roads, including Forest Road 8.

Weather: Humidity increased significantly overnight, however, as temperatures increase later today, conditions are expected to dry out. Along with potential thunderstorm activity over northeastern New Mexico, these conditions are expected to bring increased winds and a 10% chance of precipitation in the fire area today.

Smoke: Smoke from the Indios Fire is visible from 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. Daily smoke reports are posted on Inciweb and the social media pages below.

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/>.

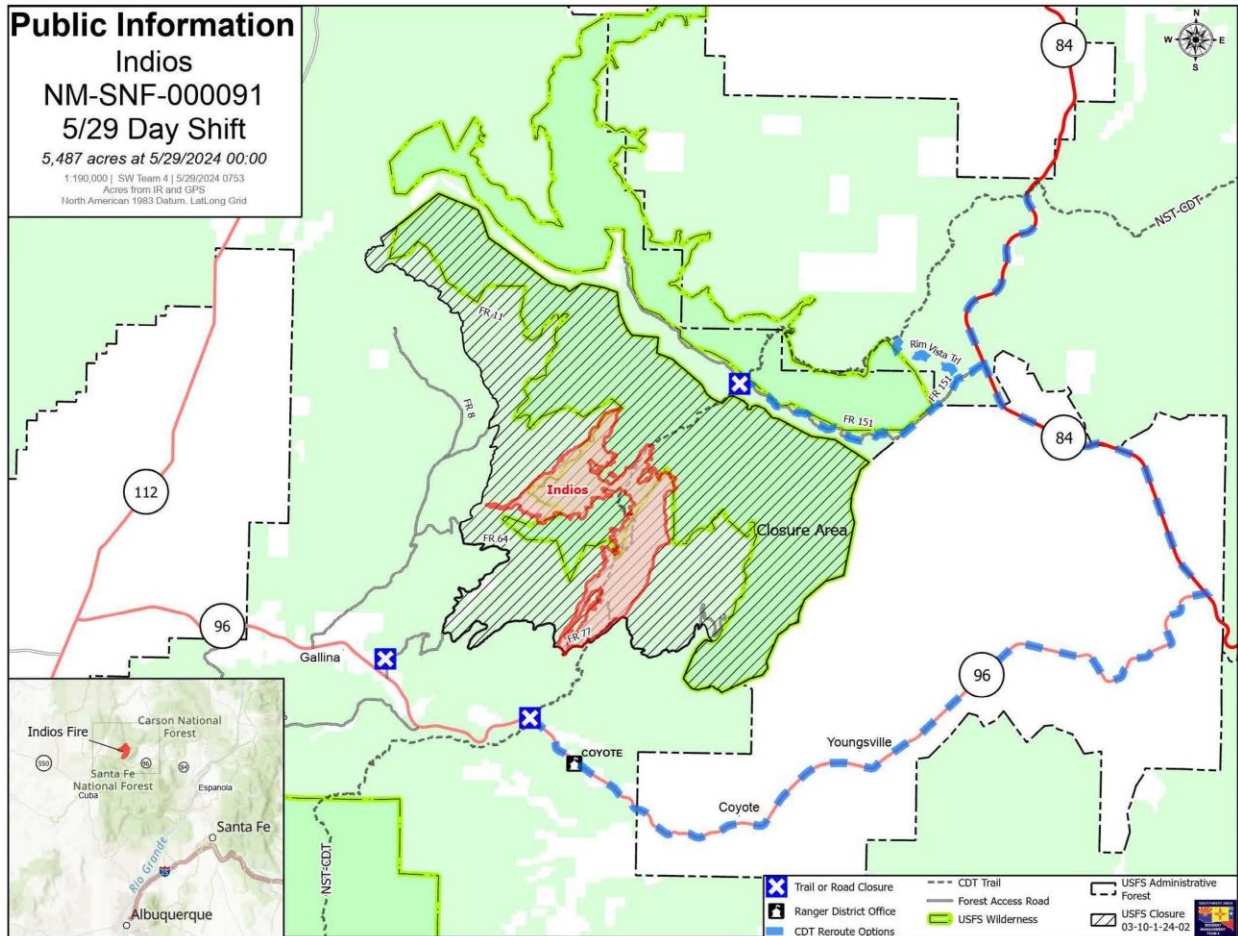
More Information: [inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/nmsnf-indios-wildfire /](https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/nmsnf-indios-wildfire/)
[575-323-2290](tel:575-323-2290) / x.com/SantafeNF / facebook.com/santafeNF / 2024.indios@firenet.gov

Acres: 5,487 **Start Date:** May 19, 2024

Location: 7 miles north of the village of Coyote, NM **Personnel:** 553

Completion: 5%

Fuels: Timber



Map for Indios fire.



Smoke Outlook

North-Central New Mexico Indios Fire

5/29 - 5/30

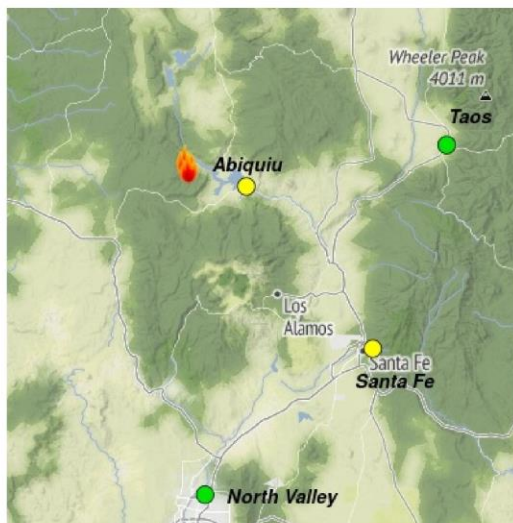
Issued by Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program on May 29, 2024 at 09:04 AM MDT

Fire

At 5,487 acres, the Indios Fire is burning along rough and rugged terrain in the Chama River Canyon Wilderness. Warmer temperatures and drier weather will promote more active fire behavior. Today, temperatures will continue to build and humidity drop, as the warming and drying trend continues. A chance of showers remains today; gusty erratic winds are possible near any showers. Crews will continue tactical operations to secure point protections and fire confinement. As we move into the warmer season, the fire will become more active with more vegetation (fuels) becoming receptive to fire. Expect active burning with flanking, backing, smoldering fire behavior. Thursday will be our driest day and fire behavior is expected to increase. Friday into the weekend, warm temperatures persist with isolated showers and active fire behavior will continue.

Smoke

Today, a visible smoke plume will build by late afternoon into early evening. With southwesterly winds, smoke will push northeast over the San Juan Mountains. The main smoke plume will stay north of Taos and will be visible along the Rio Grande Valley from Santa Fe to Taos. Heaviest smoke impacts will be in the immediate vicinity of the fire, settling overnight in drainages and low lying areas along canyons. Communities along Hwy 96 including Coyote, Youngsville, and Abiquiu will have light-to-moderate smoke impacts, peaking overnight into early morning, dispersing by mid-morning. Smoke concentrations will be highly dependant on daytime fire activity. Light disperse smoke from fires on the Arizona-New Mexico border will move across the state today into tomorrow. Incoming smoke could continue if those fire establish and have significant growth.



Daily AQI Forecast* for Wednesday

Station	Yesterday			Tue 5/28	Comment for Today -- Wed, May 29	Forecast*	
	6a	noon	6p			Wed 5/29	Thu 5/30
Abiquiu					Smoke levels highly dependant on fire behavior. GOOD to MOD AQ with USG periods.		
North Valley ABQ					Overall GOOD air quality, daytime smoke may be visible.		
Santa Fe					Morning smoke from other fires, MOD AQ levels with clearing late in the day.		
Taos					Smoke will be visible from daily fire activity, GOOD to MOD AQ expected.		

Issued May 29, 2024 by A. Ortega, amber.ortega@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.

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Additional Links

Indios Fire -- <https://inciweb.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 5/29