



Southwest Area Incident Management Team

For Immediate Release

July 1, 2004

Nuttall Fire Burnout Operations Continue

Firefighters made good progress on the Nuttall Fire again yesterday. Construction of indirect fire line was completed allowing crews to begin burnout operations on the southwest portion of the fire between Carter Canyon and Clark Peak. If weather conditions permit, the burnout will continue today.

The Nuttall Fire, located approximately 17 miles southwest of Safford, Arizona in the Pinaleno Mountains, is 800 acres in size and is 5 percent contained. Ten Type 1 "Hotshot" crews, four Type 2 hand crews, eight helicopters, twelve engines, four watertenders, and sixty support personnel are assigned. Three minor injuries have occurred; two were heat related and one involved an insect bite.

Fire Managers developed an indirect strategy to suppress the Nuttall Fire because a direct approach, involving fire line construction immediately adjacent to the fire, posed a safety hazard to firefighters. The terrain is very steep and rocky, and most of the fire area is accessible only by air, necessitating placement of fire lines in safer and more accessible locations. The large burnout operation, to remove unburned fuel between the fire's edge and the fire lines, will continue over the next several days. **A large amount of smoke will be visible from Safford and surrounding areas.**

State Route 366, also known as the Swift Trail, will remain closed to public access throughout the Fourth of July weekend to ensure firefighter and public safety. The road will be reopened as soon as conditions improve and fire activity no longer presents a safety hazard.

Please call Nuttall Fire Information at (928) 348-9425 with questions or concerns.

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