



## Southwest Area Incident Management Team

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For Immediate Release

July 2, 2004  
9:45 pm

### Mount Graham International Observatory Evacuated

Increased fire activity on the Gibson Fire, part of the Nuttall Fire Complex, forced the evacuation of Mount Graham International Observatory at approximately 5:00 pm today. The precautionary evacuation between Clark Peak Trail Head and Columbine remains in effect. No further evacuations occurred in the area.

The Gibson Fire is located approximately six miles east of the Nuttall Fire and 1 ½ miles from the observatory. The fire is estimated to be 200 acres in size. Two Modular Airborne Firefighting System Airtankers have been ordered to assist with suppression efforts, along with four Type 1 "Hotshot" crews and four water tenders.

In the recent past, the observatory has implemented a fire risk reduction project involving the creation of a 200-foot defensible space and installation of a sprinkler system and water storage tank. In addition, the Coronado National Forest has been constructing a sheltered fuel break along the Swift Trail, from Turkey Flat recreation summer homes, to Snow Flat and Shannon.

Please call Nuttall Fire Information at (928) 348-9425 or (928) 348-0262 for more information.

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