



Southwest Area Incident Management Team

For Immediate Release

July 10, 2004 9:30 a.m.

Nuttall and Gibson Fires Combined by Successful Burnouts

Firefighter efforts and favorable weather conditions resulted in further reduced threats to homes and facilities on Mt. Graham yesterday. The Nuttall and Gibson Fires were linked together by burnout operations along containment lines near the Columbine summer homes and the Mt. Graham International Observatory. Crews completed a burnout operation to help protect the Bible Camp and in another area that has been a concern to fire management officials, they reduced the threat to summer homes at Turkey Flat by burnouts west of the community.

Weather in the region continues to be favorable, assisting firefighters in achieving containment goals. Precipitation over the fire has been light and spotty but the forecast is for scattered showers with a potential for wetting rains. Rainfall amounts of one-quarter inch in less than half an hour are possible, which may cause flash flooding in the burned canyons, including the Noon Creek and Wet Creek drainages.

A damage assessment team inspected facilities on Heliograph Peak for the first time yesterday. The Forest Service fire lookout was damaged and a building that contained communication equipment was destroyed.

“The weather forecast is favorable, but if conditions change the fire could cause problems for us”, stated Operations Section Chief Pruet Small. Smoke from burnout operations will still be visible in the Shingle Mill Canyon area and in the upper Wet Creek drainage over the next few days.

Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano and Arizona state legislator Jake Flake visited the Nuttall Complex Incident Command Post yesterday. They also attended a public meeting held at the Ruth Powell School in Safford last night. About 300 hundred area residents were at the meeting. Those in attendance expressed their appreciation to firefighters for protecting community resources and property that have been threatened over the past two weeks.

For more information, call the Nuttall Fire Complex Information Office
(928) 348-9425, (928) 348-0261, or (928) 348-4683 - Hours of Operation: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Visit our website: www.fireteam-sw.com/oltrogge/incidents/nuttall

TODAY'S FIRE FACTS

Acreage: Complex Total – 27,272 45% Contained
Cost To Date: \$7.2 million Total Personnel Assigned: 870
Resources: 18 - Type 1 Hotshot Crews, 3 - Type 2 Regular Crews
10 Helicopters, 27 Engines, 5 Dozers, 25 Water Tenders

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