



Eastern Arizona Type 2 Incident Management Team

Distillery / Castro / Chiminea Fire Updates

Sunday, June 29, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Fire Information Contact: (520) 762-0919

Website: www.imtcenter.net (select Eastern Arizona Type 2 IMT)

Pictures / Videos: www.picasaweb.google.com/eazfireteam

Castro Fire (Saguaro National Park, east of Mica Mountain) – The 20 acre lightning-ignited Castro Fire which started on June 26 is being suppressed. Yesterday, three crews were flown in by helicopter. They have constructed a line around the fire and are mopping-up.

Chiminea Wildland Fire Use Fire (Saguaro National Park, south of Madrona Canyon) – This 10 acre lightning-ignited fire started on June 26 and is being managed for resource benefits. The fire is currently creeping and smoldering. Fire managers plan to monitor the fire until it is extinguished naturally by rain. The fire has the potential to grow to several thousand acres, depending on fuels, topography and weather. Fire managers may use a full range of actions to delay, direct, or minimize the spread of fire in one or more areas if it threatens sensitive resources, and/or to keep fire within a predetermined area. Saguaro National Park was one of the first national parks to implement a natural fire program beginning with the 1971 Kodak Fire. Wildland fire use tactics reduce the risk of injury for firefighters working in hazardous terrain and minimize the need for limited firefighting resources. Frequent, low to moderate intensity fires in woodlands and forests recycle nutrients back into the soil. They also reduce pine needles, leaves, grass, downed logs, seedling trees, and shrubs on the forest floor. Large trees usually survive. In places, fire can move into the canopy, killing trees that are rapidly replaced by new plant growth that thrives on light. The result is a shifting mosaic of vegetation which creates diverse habitat for wildlife. Many forest plants are adapted to fire, like the Ponderosa Pine, which has thick bark that acts as insulation. Low to moderate intensity fires leave standing dead trees that are important habitat for birds like the Mexican spotted owl. They also reduce the risk of large crown fires that may decrease or eliminate habitat including nesting, roosting, and foraging areas.

Trail closures at Saguaro National Park include: Miller Creek, Rincon Peak, Rincon Creek, Italian Springs, North Slope, Fire Loop, Spud Rock, Mica Mountain, Mica Meadow, Bonita, Cowhead Saddle, East Slope, Turkey Creek, Devil's Bathtub, Deerhead Springs, Switchback, Manning Camp (east of Grass Shack) and Heartbreak Ridge. Campground closures in Saguaro National Park include Manning Camp, Spud Rock, and Happy Valley Saddle. All off-trail areas within Saguaro National Park east of Douglas Springs and Manning Camp Trails are also closed.

Distillery Fire (Coronado National Forest, 5 miles northeast of Vail, AZ) – The fire remains inactive, with only a few isolated smokes observed. Fireline suppression rehabilitation to remove evidence of suppression activities and leave the area as natural as possible is 80 percent complete. Suppression rehabilitation activities include constructing water bars along constructed handlines to minimize erosion, scattering branches over cleared helispot areas, and removing suppression-related equipment, debris, trash, food items, signing and flagging. The fire will continue to be patrolled. Crews are available for initial attack on any new starts in the area if needed.

Acres: **7,980** Containment: **75%** Start Date: **6/21/8** Cause: **Lightning**
Total Personnel: **337** Hand Crews: **8** Engines: **8** Helicopters: **2**