

FACT SHEET | SKATES FIRE



Skates Fire Public Safety Message:

State Highway 35 remains closed milepost 14 (Camp Thunderbird) to the junction with State Highway 15. State Highway 15 was reopened on Saturday night at 8:00 p.m., please use caution.

UPDATE: June 18, 2006

FIRE NAME: SKATES FIRE

DATE OF DETECTION: June 2, 2006

CAUSE: Lightning

CURRENT SIZE: 10,000 acres

CONTAINMENT: 30%

LOCATION: 7 miles northeast of Pinos Altos and 12 miles northeast of Silver City

JURISDICTION: Gila National Forest

STATUS: Mandatory evacuations remain in effect for Lake Roberts Estates, Lake Roberts Heights, Trout Valley, and the Lake Roberts area. Moderate fire behavior was observed yesterday, with short isolated runs and occasional torching. Good progress was made on the northern portion of the fire where structure protection continues to be a priority. Burnout operations will continue today from the Lake Roberts area continuing east along Highway 35 to Skates Canyon. Weather conditions remain very warm and dry; however winds have decreased to between 5 and 10 mph.

RESOURCE THREATENED: 150 homes remain threatened including numerous outbuildings, and infrastructure. No structures have been lost, thanks to coordination with structural fire departments and volunteers, and fire fighter efforts.

FUELS: Fuels in the area are a mix of piñon-juniper and ponderosa pine.

CLOSURES: An emergency closure order is in effect for the immediate area of the Skates Fire. **A road closure is in effect- see above public safety message.** For specific information related to the closure order, please visit www.fs.fed.us/r3/gila.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES: State Highway 15 was reopened on June 17th at 8:00 p.m., and the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument is now accessible. Fire spread and smoke will continue to be visible as the fire remains active. Drift smoke will be the heaviest in the Mimbres Valley.

RESOURCES: 479 personnel are assigned to the fire. A Type 1 incident management team (Dietrich) took command of the fire this morning. Cooperating and assisting agencies include New Mexico State Forestry, Grant County Sheriff, NM State Police, Volunteer Fire Departments, Department of Transportation, and American Red Cross

FIRE INFORMATION: For specific information about the Skates Fire, call (505) 388-8268. For information on evacuees, call the Red Cross at (505) 536-3385, (505) 536-3386 or (505) 536-3387.

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