

**For Immediate Release**

June 15, 2016 9:00 P.M.

Last news release for today.

**Contact:**

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**Wildfire Fact Sheet- Aspen Fire**

**Note: Get the latest fire updates on Twitter @UtahWildfire; @usfsdnf**

**Summary:** Color Country Interagency Communication Center received a report of a fire start on Bumblebee Mountain on the Pine Valley District of the Dixie National Forest. Local resources are on scene and aerial resources are currently being used. Smoke from the Aspen Fire can be seen from Cedar City.

**Start Date:** Wednesday, June 15, 2016

**Location:** North of Bumblebee Mountain, 13 Miles Southwest of Cedar City

**Jurisdiction:** Pine Valley Ranger District, Dixie National Forest

**Fire Size:** Estimated at 400 acres. (Note: one acre is equivalent to one football field).

**Cause:** Lightning (lightning and storms passed through southern Utah on 6/11 and 6/12)

**Closures:** Bumblebee Ridge Road

**Fuels:** Grass, brush and timber.

**Structures:** Approximately 20 scattered structures to the north of the fire are threatened with no evacuations at this time.

**Fire Crews/Resources:** Local resources on scene are 2 engines from Forest Service, 1 engine from the Bureau of Land Management and Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, an Aerial Supervision aircraft (Air Attack), 5 Single engine air tankers (SEATS), one Type 3 Helicopter, and a Color Country Type 3 team. Orders have been placed for two Type 1 or Type 2 crews, 2 Heavy Air Tankers and one Lead Plane.

Air operation have currently been suspended due to wind gusts reaching up to 40 miles per hour.

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<https://www.ironcounty.net/department/emergency-management/citizen-alert/>

"It is common for lightning caused fires to show up days later, these are called holdover lightning fires. The higher relative humidity and moisture often associated with thunderstorms can cause fire behavior to be so minimal that smoke is not visible above tree tops until fire behavior picks up with warm and dry weather patterns,"explains Joe Rechsteiner, Pine Valley District Ranger.

The public is asked to avoid Highway 56 if possible. Wildland firefighters are actively engaged in suppression efforts. Please be extra cautious as higher temperatures and increased winds are predicted over the next few days. It only takes one spark to create a wildfire.

Stay connected, visit the Dixie National Forest website at [www.fs.usda.gov/dixie](http://www.fs.usda.gov/dixie) , like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/usfsdnf> , and follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/usfsdnf](http://www.twitter.com/usfsdnf) for the latest information.

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*For more information on fires in Utah visit [www.utahfireinfo.gov](http://www.utahfireinfo.gov).*