

News *fire information*

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June 18, 2016 Pine Valley Ranger District Suppressing Three Lightning Caused Fires

ST. GEORGE, UTAH –The Pine Valley Ranger District of the Dixie National Forest is suppressing three lightning caused fires. The Saddle Fire in the Pine Valley Wilderness Area, the Pine Canyon Fire and the Aspen Fire.

Storms and lightning passed through Southern Utah between Saturday, June 11th and Sunday, June 12th, 2016. "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 wind, higher temperatures and dry weather patterns," explains Joe Rechsteiner, Pine Valley District Ranger.

The Saddle Fire was reported on Monday, June 13, 2016 and has burned approximately 160 acres as of June 17th. It is approximately 2.5 miles southwest from the town of Pine Valley. No area or road closures are in place at this time. Goat Spring Trail is under pending closure. Aerial resources will be utilized. Handcrews worked yesterday to improve Forest Service fuel break that surrounds the community of Pine Valley. Currently there are 2 Type 1 Handcrews on the fire. 1 light Helicopter is on scene and one heavy helicopter is on order to be working the Saddle Fire for the June 18th Day shift. The Saddle fire is being taken by a Color Country Type 3 Incident Management team effective June 18th. More Fire Fighting resources are on order and should be arriving at the saddle ICP for assignment soon. A new fire information officer is on scene at saddle fire. For fire information regarding the Saddle fire call 435-253-0127. Or continue to follow the Dixie National Forest on Facebook, twitter, and utahfireinfo.

The Pine Canyon Fire was reported June 15th, and is now at 105 acres. It is approximately 2 miles south of the Aspen Fire. The Pine fire is currently 60%. Crews continue to make good progress securing the fire edge and mopping up hot spots.

The Aspen Fire was reported around 3:00 A.M. on June 15, 2016. High winds and hot temperatures increased the fire to approximately 355 acres. Twenty scattered structures, including homes and outbuildings, are currently threatened. Ground crews are working to enhance fuel breaks by clearing vegetation near structures. Fire is 30% contained at this time. High winds were experienced periodically throughout the shift today. Existing control lines were held and improved throughout the shift today. Crews continue to secure fire edge and mop up hot spots. All roads leading to the Bumblebee repeater are closed and being patrolled by law enforcement.

Local resources on the scene for Aspen and Pine Fires are 7 engines, 2 dozers, 3 Helicopter, 5 Single Engine Air Tankers (S.E.A.T.'s), 3 Heavy Air Tankers, 9 Type 1 Hotshot Handcrews, 9 Type 2 Handcrews. Total personnel 475.

The Color Country Type 3 Incident management team continues to take all opportunity to utilize ground and aerial resources while reevaluating the fire to gain situational awareness to best plan the next actions and ensure success and safety throughout the incident. The number one priority will be for firefighter and public safety when making management decisions.

Cooperation and collaboration with other federal agencies; state, county, and local agencies are critical to safe and effective wildfire response. Thank you to each agency that has been assisting with our efforts and to the public for your continued patience and support.

One firefighter sustained an injury June 16th and was medically evacuated from the fire to Dixie Regional Medical Center. The firefighter sustained a head injury due to a fall. The firefighter has been released from the Hospital and is now recovering at home. No other injuries have been reported.

Temporary flight restrictions in place within a 7 mile radius of the fire. "If you fly, we can't."

No evacuations have been ordered. There is one road closure Bumblebee Ridge Road. To **receive alerts for emergencies and other important community messages by signing up for the Citizen Alert System for Iron County, Utah and surrounding cities.**

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

This notification system enables Iron County and the cities within the county to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as unexpected road closures, missing persons, and evacuation of buildings or neighborhoods.

Stay connected, visit the Dixie National Forest website at 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 for the latest information.

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For more information on fires in Utah visit www.utahfireinfo.gov.

