

News *fire information*

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Pine Valley Ranger District Suppressing Three Lightning Caused Fires

ST. GEORGE, UTAH – June 20, 2016

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," said Joe Rechsteiner, Pine Valley District Ranger.

The Pine Canyon Fire was reported June 15th, and has been held to 105 acres. It is approximately 2 miles south of the Aspen Fire. The Pine Canyon fire is now 100% contained. Crews made good progress securing the fire edge and mopping up hot spots with helicopter support. This fire will be monitored and not staffed with crews for today's shift.

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, remain threatened. The Aspen Fire is being held at 355 acres and is 85% contained. Existing control lines are holding and will be improved throughout the shift today. Crews continue to secure fire edge and mop up hot spots with the aid of helicopters. All roads leading to the Bumblebee repeater are closed.

Interagency resources on scene for Aspen and Pine Fires include 3 engines, 1 dozer, 3 Helicopter, 5 Single Engine Air Tankers (S.E.A.T.'s), 3 Heavy Air Tankers, 9 Type 1 Hotshot Handcrews, 7 Type 2 Handcrews. 300 total personnel are currently assigned.

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

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 expected to make a full recovery. Two heat related injuries were reported yesterday (minor dehydration) firefighters were treated by fireline EMT's and released back to their respective crews.

(Temporary flight restrictions are in place within a seven mile radius of the fire. “If you fly, we can’t.” This includes drone aircraft. Any form of Drone use with in the Temporary flight restricted area will require our Fire Fighting aircraft to be grounded.

No evacuations are in effect. There is one road closure Bumblebee Spring 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.

