



Pecos Zone Type III Interagency Incident Management Team

Kellar Fire UPDATE

For Immediate Release:
Tuesday, May 29th, 2018 9:32 pm

Incident Commander: Tom Barta
Team PIO's: Linda Wallace / Donna Storch

Detected: May 22th 2018

Containment: 0 percent

Fuel Type: Pinon /Juniper, brush and grass

Cause: Lightning

Location: 3 miles North of Queen, NM

Terrain: Steep and rugged on the north side of area perimeter with more uniform terrain to the south end, closer to Queen, NM.

Current Size: 620 acres

Summary: Tuesday, May 29, 2018, approximately 8:30 am, two Hot Shot crews began blackline operations on the Kellar Fire at the junction of Last Chance Canyon and Sitting Bull Canyon. This tactic will limit fire spread to the north and east. The black lining extended out to Logan Spring on the north perimeter, south to the Forest Service Road 525 and Trail 214 junction. Shortly after, an aerial ignitions operation was conducted, by helicopter. The operation fire was successful, achieving 620 acres of perimeter enhancement. The hot, dry weather pattern is continuing to dry fine fuels and support desired effects for resource management. Further operational periods will be conducted to complete any necessary ignitions not completed during today's planned burn period.

The town of Queen, NM borders the potential fire area and aggressive measures are being taken to ensure impacts are minimized to the community. Extensive preparatory work has been conducted near the town.

Resources: Resources from the U. S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Forestry and contract personnel are assigned to the fire. Currently, there are 159 personnel assigned to the incident. Additional resources are arriving to support the incident as needed.

Area Structures: 403—These are mainly within the community of Queen. These consist of 200 homes, 203 outbuildings, hay sheds, barns, dorms, restaurant and RV Park. No structure, regardless of type, is in imminent danger, and protection of all structures is a top priority for fire personnel.

Closures: Beginning Tuesday, May 29th, the 68 and 525 road systems as well as road 277-C, will be closed for public safety, during operations. Sitting Bull Falls will be closed at Forest Service Road 276 and Eddy County Road junction 409 (Sitting Bull Falls first gate). The restricted area is bounded on the North at Last Chance Canyon, on the South at, but not including, NM-Hwy 137, on the West, along and including Forest Service Road 525, and on the East, along and including Forest Road 68. Signs will be posted to inform potential visitors, of these locations being inaccessible. The Sitting Bull Falls trail system will be closed as well, until deemed safe by fire operations personnel, for public re-entry.

Visitors to the area are reminded to be aware of increased traffic along the narrow and winding roads. They are requested to stay clear of the treatment area and watch for smoke that may hinder sight along roads and trails.

For further information, see <http://www.nmfireinfo.com/>, inciweb.com and email @ nmkellarfire@gmail.com.