



**SOUTHWEST AREA**  
**INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM**  
**TEAM 4 – CARL SCHWOPE – INCIDENT COMMANDER**

**Media & Public Information Contact:**

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**Hours:** 8 am- 8 pm

## Miller Fire Update July 7, 2019

**Acres:** 5,772

**Cause:** Lightning

**Total personnel:** 336

**Start Date:** June 29, 2019

**Location:** Peloncillo Mtns N.M.

**Fuels:** Timber, brush, and grass

**Meeting Information:** The Miller Fire public meeting was held last night at the Rodeo Community Center. We thank those who attended from surrounding communities. Video excerpts of the meeting will be posted to the Coronado National Forest Facebook page <https://biturl.org/MillerPublicMeeting>.

**Fire Activity:** In spite of recent rains, heat and hotspots are occurring throughout the fire perimeter. Fire activity in finer, grassy fuels is expected to increase as they dry out due to hotter, drier weather. This weather pattern will continue into the week. Fire activity may also increase in brushy, woody fuels.

**Objectives:** Objectives for this lightning-caused fire include firefighter and public safety, point protection for structures in the area, and managing the fire to perform its natural role on the landscape of clearing excess vegetation, which will improve range and wildlife habitat and watershed conditions. Our operational strategies are supporting these objectives with the actions taken on the fire ground.

**Operations:** Work on the Geronimo Trail Road, spur roads, and hand line has been completed in preparation for burnout operations on the upper side of the fire. The burnout may start today if weather and burning conditions permit. This will create a buffer zone between the main fire and control lines. Smoke production can be moderate to heavy with planned burnout operations. Generally smoke will move in a north or northeast direction with predicted winds, but can move in other directions depending on specific weather conditions during the week. Smoke and air quality information can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/MillerFireAirQuality>.

**Weather:** There is a slight chance for thunderstorms today before drier air moves into the region with gusty southwest winds later in the afternoon. Those winds will peak at 12 to 17 mph with gusts around 25 mph from the mid-afternoon hours into the early evening. Temperatures will top out in the upper 80s with the humidity dipping into the upper 20s later in the day.

**Closures:** There is a temporary flight restriction closure over the fire area. Citizens are encouraged to stay safely clear of fire area. The Geronimo Trail Road will close without notice due to fire activity and firefighters performing burnout operations. Check the links below for the most current conditions.

Inciweb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6417/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CoronadoNF/>

NM Fire Information: <https://nmfireinfo.com/>