



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 9, 2019

Acres: 5,772

Cause: Lightning

Total personnel: 325

Start Date: June 29, 2019

Location: Peloncillo Mtns N.M.

Fuels: Timber, brush, and grass

Objectives: Objectives for this lightning-caused fire include firefighter and public safety, protecting values at risk, and managing the fire for resource benefit. Efforts have already begun to repair areas affected by firefighting operations. This effort will include dispersing excess vegetation and cutting and stacking larger woody material. Water bars will also be installed on several handlines cut on the eastern side of the fire. All of which will improve range, wildlife habitat, and watershed conditions. For more information on managing fires with multiple objective strategies and objectives please see these links.

<https://biturl.org/MillerFireMultipleStrategies>

<https://biturl.org/MillerFireMultipleObjectives>

Fire Activity: Fire activity has decreased significantly over the fire due to recent rains. Hot spots are still located within the interior; however, no heat has been detected along the perimeter edge. Warmer weather and low humidity over the next few days may challenge the security of the fire perimeter.

Operations: Firefighters remain diligent and ready to take action in the unlikely event the fire moves from its current position. On Sunday, a lighting strike started a small fire in the Animas Valley. This fire was quickly mitigated by New Mexico State Forestry crews with assistance from crews working the Miller Fire. Yesterday, crews were assisted by an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) staffed by fire personnel in a coordinated effort with fire management to search for additional new starts from lightning strikes, remaining hot spots, and mapping the fire perimeter.

Today, fire crews will continue to monitor and evaluate the burn area. In addition, personnel will begin suppression repair activities on areas affected. As these tasks are completed, crews will begin the process of demobilization and become available in the region to assist with future incidents.

Weather: Another sunny and very warm day is expected with a light westerly breeze and temperatures climbing into the lower 90's across much of the fire area. The air will remain dry with rather poor overnight humidity recovery followed by a low relative humidity in the afternoon.

Closures: There is a temporary flight restriction closure over the fire. No other closures are in the area however, crews will still be working over the next several days. Please use caution on roads around the fire to protect your own welfare and that of the fire crews.

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

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

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