



## SOUTHWEST INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM #5

Jeff Andrews - Incident Commander

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### Type II Incident Management Team assumes management of the Sawmill Fire

April 25, 2017

**Estimated Acres:** 20,000

**Cause:** Under investigation

**Containment:** 7%

**Total personnel:** Approx. 363

**Start Date:** April 23, 2017

**Location:** 10 miles SE of Green Valley, Arizona

**Fuels:** Tall grass, riparian woodland, mesquite/oak brush, oak woodland, and pinyon-juniper

The Sawmill Fire is currently burning on lands under the jurisdiction of the Coronado National Forest, Bureau of Land Management and the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management. Today at 6:00 p.m., Jeff Andrews' Type II Incident Management Team assumed command of the Sawmill Fire. Due to the increasing complexity of the fire, management will transition to a Type I Incident Management Team on Thursday, April 27. Contact information will be announced through a subsequent news release.

The fire was active on the southwest flank today, with additional growth east of Arizona Highway 83. Fire behavior is largely wind-driven, remaining active throughout the night. A wind advisory remains in effect, with gusts up to 45 miles per hour. Winds are anticipated to lessen tomorrow, with high winds returning on Thursday and remaining through Saturday.

A full suppression strategy is being employed to protect nearby values at risk including homes, ranches and outbuildings, communications facilities, powerlines, and the Arizona National Scenic Trail. Estimated fire size is 20,000 acres. This figure is based on a visual estimate and will likely change due to incident mapping and fire growth.

Evacuations have been ordered for the communities of Greaterville, Singing Valley and Rain Valley. Pre-evacuation notices have been issued to residents of Hilton Ranch and Mescal J-6. Evacuation centers are located at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds (3142 Highway 83, Sonoita, AZ) and the Southeastern Regional Park Shooting Range (11296 S. Harrison Rd. Tucson, AZ). These locations will also serve as evacuation centers for livestock and pets.

Temporary closures remain in effect for National Forest Service Road (NFSR) 62 at the entrance to Box Canyon, easterly to the junction with NFSR 229, continuing southwesterly to NFSR 165 and on to the Melendrez Pass Communication Site in the Santa Rita Mountains. Temporary closures remain in place for Cave Creek, Sawmill, and Florida Canyon trails, along with the Arizona National Scenic Trail from NFSR 4110 northward to NFSR 4072.

The media are invited to attend a briefing at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds at 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 26. Following the briefing, media partners are invited to an escorted tour of the Sawmill Fire at 9:00 a.m.

For more information on the Sawmill Fire, please contact Fire Information at (505) 750-4636. Official incident information will be posted online at the Sawmill Fire InciWeb page (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5164/>) and the Coronado National Forest Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/CoronadoNF](http://www.facebook.com/CoronadoNF)).

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