

Wildfire Information

EMNRD-FORESTRY DIVISION

Incident Name: Cooks Peak

Start Date & Time: 4/17/22 @ 1615

Start Location: Ocate off of HWY 120 Canada

Bonita

Latitude: 36.24352

Longitude: -105.03793

Cause of Fire: Under investigation

Area Vegetation: Grass, pinon, juniper, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer

Estimated Acres Burned: 8,000

Ownership(s): Private

Structures Threatened: Yes

Structures Burned: No

Evacuations: Yes



The Cooks Peak Fire, located on private land north of Ocate in Mora County, is now estimated at 8,000 acres and 0% contained. Strong winds and low relative humidity continue to fuel the fire, which is most active on the eastern flank. Fire crews are working to safely establish containment lines using hand tools and heavy equipment. Due to the complexity and extreme behavior of the Cooks Peak Fire, aircraft will only fly when it is safe to do so. Firefighters will continue to work on the ground to control spotting outside of the fire line and protect values at risk. County CR009, NM Highway 442, and NM Highway 420 are currently closed. This is an emerging incident and information may change rapidly. All remaining residents nearest to the fire are urged to be ready to evacuate if the situation changes.

- **The Mora and Colfax County Sheriff's Offices are using the [Ready, Set, Go!](#) program for evacuation status. In Mora County, areas east of County Road CR009 and north of NM Highway 120 are in Go status, which means residents in this area have already evacuated. Areas west of County Road CR009 are in Ready status as well as the communities of Sweet Water, Rayado, Sunny Side, and Miami in Colfax County. This means residents must be prepared to leave immediately if a full evacuation is necessary.** Additional information can be found on the Mora County Sheriff's Office Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/moracountysheriffoffice>.
- Smoke from the Cooks Peak Fire will continue to impact the surrounding communities, especially in northeast New Mexico. This includes Ocate, Rayado, Philmont Scout Ranch headquarters, Cimarron, and surrounding communities in Mora County and Colfax County.
- More than 145 personnel are assigned to the Cooks Peak Fire with additional resources on order.

Evacuation Centers: Memorial Middle School in Las Vegas, Wagon Mound Public Schools, and Mora Schools are available for evacuees if needed.

Livestock: The American Legion Pavilion in Mora, Colfax County Fairgrounds, and Cimarron County Fairgrounds are available for evacuated horses and livestock. The State Land Office is also offering a pasture for large animals displaced by the fire. Contact Livestock Inspector, Matthew Romero at 575-643-6805 for more information.

Closures: County CR009, NM Highway 442, and NM Highway 420 are closed. Additional road closures may be necessary and drivers are urged to obey all traffic signage.

Smoke: Individuals sensitive to wildfire smoke should take precautions and use the New Mexico Department of Health 5-3-1 Visibility Method to determine if it's safe to be outside. Learn more at

<https://nmtracking.org/environment/air/FireAndSmoke.html>. The New Mexico Department of Health and New Mexico Environment Department will issue

Smoke Advisories as needed. An interactive smoke map at <https://fire.airnow.gov/> allows you to zoom into your area to see the latest smoke conditions.

Fire information will be posted to the following websites.

NM Fire Info: www.nmfireinfo.com

InciWeb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/8061/>

**** This ListServ is a service of the New Mexico Forestry Division.** The information provided on this e-mail alert focuses on wildfires on state and private land and fires within the jurisdiction of the Forestry Division. For the most consolidated up-to-date information on wildfires in New Mexico as reported by all jurisdictions, please log onto www.nmfireinfo.com.

****This email alert is presented for information purposes only. Residents near the fire are urged not to travel into that area for their own safety and the safety of emergency responders.**

For information on wildfire prevention and preparedness, log onto <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/>.
