



SOUTHWEST AREA TYPE 1 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM 2

JOHN PIERSON - INCIDENT COMMANDER



Bighorn Fire

Bighorn Fire – June 16, 2020 Morning Update Burnout operations continue through the night

Acres: 15,805

Percent Containment: 30%

Start Date: June 5, 2020

Cause: Lightning

Injuries: 3 minor heat-related illnesses

Jurisdiction: Coronado National Forest, including portions of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness

Resources: 7 hotshot crews, 8 Type 2 hand crews, 27 Type 3 engines, 1 Type 4 engine, 25 Type 6 engines, 4 Type 1 helicopters, 1 Type 2 helicopter, 2 Type 3 helicopters, 9 water tenders, 6 bulldozers

Origin Location: Santa Catalina Mountains

Personnel: 729

Crews took advantage of favorable weather conditions last night to conduct burnout operations on the northeast portion of the fire near the Trico powerline corridor. The goal of this burnout, conducted through aerial ignition using helicopters, is to slow the upslope momentum of the fire as it emerges from Romero Pass. Some lightning was observed over the forest last night and the Initial Attack crew stands at the ready to suppress any new ignitions.

The favorable humidity observed yesterday will dissipate and hot, dry conditions are expected to prevail, with strong southwest winds gusting up to 30 mph in the afternoon. Firefighters are working to create solid, defensible space around the community of Summerhaven, using heavy equipment such as bulldozers and excavators to bolster fuel breaks. Crews are placing bright orange portable water tanks known as pumpkins among the homes of the mountaintop town to feed sprinkler systems and strategically placed firehoses.

Firefighters continue to closely monitor the fire established at the top of Ventana Canyon and feel confident in the fire lines created to the south, if that fire were to move downslope. The public can expect to see crews working along the entire perimeter of the fire and are encouraged to drive with caution and make way for emergency vehicles.

Evacuation Notices:

- Mt. Lemmon and Mt. Bigelow are in **“SET – Be Alert”** status north of Organization Ridge Road Area, including Summerhaven.
- **SET notices for portions of the Catalina Foothills, Golder Ranch and Oro Valley remain in place.**

Sign up to receive emergency alerts at myalerts.pima.gov. Visit pima.gov/bighorn for the most up-to-date information on evacuation notices, an interactive map, and county resources. Residents may contact the Pima County Sheriff’s Department at 520-351-FIRE (3473) with evacuation questions.

The Coronado National Forest closure order includes Sabino and Bear Canyons. Catalina State Park is closed. Large portions of the Coronado National Forest, Santa Catalina Ranger District near the fire are restricted. View the closure orders and maps at inciweb.nwccg.gov/incident/closures/6741/.

Catalina Highway is closed to the public at milepost zero. Only residents and business owners may pass.
Fire Information Phone Line: (520) 276-8981 and (520) 329-7439, 8AM-8PM

Media Phone Line: (520) 329-7640, 8AM-8PM

InciWeb: inciweb.nwccg.gov/incident/6741/

Facebook: facebook.com/bighornfireinfo

Smoke Outlook: [wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlooks/
EasternArizona](https://wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlooks/EasternArizona)

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