

NEWS

For Immediate Release

**United States
Department
of Agriculture**

Forest Service

Cibola National Forest
Sandia Ranger District
11776 Hwy. 337
Tijeras, NM 87059

Tel: (505) 281-3304
Fax: (505) 281-1176



SANDIA RANGER DISTRICT REMAINS IN EXTREME FIRE DANGER

Tijeras, NM, June 13, 2006 – Despite recent rains, the Sandia Ranger District of the US Forest Service remains in Extreme Fire Danger.

District Ranger Genice Froehlich acknowledged today that closing trails and roads within the Sandia District have caused some inconvenience, but she thanked forest visitors for their continued patience and understanding during this extreme fire season. “For a few days last week we received some light and spotty rain showers,” said Froehlich, “but it definitely wasn’t enough to reduce our fire danger.” The scattered rains did little to abate the fire danger because the fine fuels most affected by the rain take only a few hours to dry out. The current restrictions and closures will probably not change until the rain of the ‘monsoon season’ arrives several weeks from now.

“Preserving public safety and protecting natural resources are the purposes for the restrictions,” Froehlich said. “The public’s continued safe actions and compliance while visiting the Sandia Ranger District is very much appreciated.” Fires that start under the current extreme fire conditions can travel miles in a short time. The speed and intensity of these fires create an extremely dangerous situation for everyone and everything in their paths, including firefighters attempting to locate backcountry visitors. Homes adjacent to the forest boundary, as well as those on private land within the forest, are also at risk of being lost to fire.

Since wildfires often start from abandoned campfires, a ‘no fire’ policy is in effect throughout the District, including picnic areas that are otherwise open.

For specific information on New Mexico fire restrictions and closures, contact the New Mexico Interagency Fire Information webpage at www.nmfireinfo.com, or contact them by telephone toll free at 1-877-864-6985, so you can “Know Before You Go.”

For additional information contact the Sandia Ranger District 505-281-3304

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