



The Navajo Nation
Commission on Emergency Management



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 21, 2025

Sonsela Butte Fire burns approximately 133 acres north of Crystal, N.M.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – At 1:00 p.m. today, the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management (CEM) was notified of a human-caused, wildland fire that has burned approximately 133 acres north of Crystal, N.M.

The fire, known as the Sonsela Butte Fire, is located on the west side of Navajo Route 12, between mile markers 53 and 55, along the highway. As a result, Navajo Route 12 was temporarily closed to allow firefighters and emergency responders to address the blaze. By 4:40 p.m., both northbound and southbound lanes were reopened. CEM advises commuters to exercise caution when traveling in the area near the fire.



The BIA Navajo Region Branch of Fire Management will remain on scene until 9:00 p.m. and resume operations tomorrow morning.

The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management is coordinating with the BIA Navajo Region Branch of Fire Management to ensure adequate resources and maintain effective communication with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

CEM expresses its gratitude to all first responders working to control the fire, including the BIA Navajo Region Branch of Fire Management, Navajo Nation Fire Department, Ganado Fire Department, Navajo Nation Police Department, Navajo Nation Rangers, and Navajo Nation Fish and Wildland Conservation Officers.

For more information, contact Navajo Regional Fire Dispatch at (928) 729-2307.

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