



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oak Ridge Fire exceeds 200 acres, forces local evacuations



The Oak Ridge Fire has burned approximately 200 acres and prompted evacuations.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – A wildfire that ignited southwest of the St. Michaels Chapter earlier today has burned at least 200 acres and prompted the evacuation of residents in its path.

According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Navajo Region, the Oak Ridge Fire continues to move aggressively to the southeast.

The fire has triggered evacuations along its projected path and near the El Paso pipeline corridor. It continues to demonstrate high potential for spread due to dry fuels and active fire behavior, including torching and spotting.

Evacuees are being relocated to the Window Rock Unified School District Fighting Scouts Event Center. The Fort Defiance Senior Center is open and accepting donations, while Fort Defiance Chapter remains on standby as a secondary shelter. The St. Michael's Chapter is open as a secondary shelter and accepting donations.

The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) has de-energized select power lines as a safety precaution, noting potential impacts to Chinle, Nazlini, Ganado, Klagnetoh, Steamboat, and Wide Ruins. NTUA stated that electric line crews are on standby and will provide updates on any outages.

"Our people need to be vigilant about the poor and dry conditions we're experiencing on the Navajo Nation," said Resources and Development Committee Chair Brenda Jesus. "I've urged the Navajo Nation Forestry Department and the BIA to impose Stage 2 Fire Restrictions so we don't further jeopardize our people, wildlife, and our land."

The 25th Navajo Nation Council is urging the public to avoid State Route 264 and Route 12, and to yield to emergency response and public safety vehicles.

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