



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 29, 2025

Oak Ridge Fire estimated at 1800 acres, zero containment



Fire crews debrief and strategize their objectives in battling the Oak Ridge Fire burning southwest of St. Michael's Chapter.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Sunday, June 29, the Navajo Nation Incident Command Team, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Navajo Region Fire Management, and the Navajo Nation Forestry Department held a briefing at the Wellness Center in Window Rock, Ariz., to provide updates on the Oak Ridge Fire burning southwest of the St. Michaels Chapter.

BIA officials confirmed that the Oak Ridge Fire has charred nearly 1,800 acres and remains at zero percent containment, which is an update from 1,000 acres reported last night by the Incident Commander on site. No injuries or structural damage have been reported at this time.

According to Navajo Nation Incident Commander Lieutenant Tyler Lynch, current operational objectives include mobilizing additional interagency and BIA resources—including ground engines and aerial suppression teams—securing perimeter control lines, monitoring trigger points near the El Paso Natural Gas pipeline corridor, informing nearby residents of “Ready” alert status for potential evacuations, and establishing a dedicated call center for fire-related inquiries.

Speaker Crystalyne Curley emphasized the importance of community readiness and cooperation with emergency personnel.

"Fire is not only a destructive force—it is also an essential part of our ecosystem," said Speaker Curley. "We must engage with fire respectfully to support the efforts of our first responders, who are putting their lives on the line to protect us. We ask residents to work with local public safety agencies, be prepared to evacuate if needed, and take all necessary precautions. The safety and wellbeing of our people must remain our top priority."

Agencies currently assisting with suppression efforts include BIA Navajo Region Fire Management, BIA Rangers, BIA Navajo Scouts and Hotshot crews, the Navajo Nation Forestry Department, Apache County and the Apache County Sheriff's Office, and Navajo Nation Public Safety departments.

Summit Road 9000 and the access road to the El Paso Natural Gas Company remain closed. The Navajo Nation Police Department is monitoring Navajo Route 12 in St. Michaels to manage traffic near emergency operations.

The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority has resolved earlier power outages and is encouraging residents west of the Oak Ridge Fire to conserve energy, as electric lines have been rerouted in response to the fire. Officials continue to monitor the fire's proximity to critical infrastructure, including the El Paso substation and pipeline.

The Bee Hóldzil Fighting Scouts Events Center in Fort Defiance remains the official evacuation shelter and donation site for families displaced by the fire.

The public is reminded that drone flights are strictly prohibited in and around the fire area. Unauthorized drone activity endangers firefighting aircraft and ground crews.

Residents are urged to remain alert, follow all fire restrictions, and monitor official Navajo Nation updates regarding the "Ready, Set, Go" evacuation protocol.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council continues to urge residents to follow all fire restrictions and to avoid travel near affected areas, including State Route 264 and Route 12, to allow emergency personnel full access.

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