



## *NEWS RELEASE*

*For immediate release*

**Jim Apodaca**

GLZ Type III Team

Public Information Officer

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## **Sawmill Fire Information 6/26/2012**

**Detected:** 6/23/2012

**Cause:** Lightning

**Location:** Approximately 13 miles south of Magdalena, New Mexico and approximately 3 miles southeast of Magdalena Ridge Observatory/Langmuir Lab. This fire is located in extremely steep and rugged terrain burning in mixed conifer and through rock screes.

**Current Size:** IR (infrared) Flight from 6/26/12 at 1:00 a.m. more accurately mapped the fire at 101 acres.

**Containment:** 0%

**Suppression Actions:** Firefighters will continue to hold fire line along the ridge that separates Sawmill and Ryan Hill Canyons. One crew will be flown into the bottom of Sawmill Canyon to hike up to the fire to construct direct fire line and mop up if conditions allow. Crews continue to work with 3 – Type 1 helicopter, working out of the Socorro Airport to slow and / or stop the spread of the fire in areas where it is hazardous to put fire fighters. Continued structure protection is being implemented for the Langmuir Lab and Magdalena Ridge Observatory, atop the Magdalena Mountains.

**Fire Behavior:** Most of the fire is burning on the ground at slow rates due to the air resources conducting successful drops. With this fire burning in such extreme terrain, there is still a high likelihood for material to roll and ignite fire down slope. With fire fighters working on the bottom side of the fire will further reduce risk of roll out. Potential for fire growth is considered medium.

**Resources:** 4 – Hotshot crews, 5 - Type 6 engines, 4 - Type 1 helicopters, 1 – Type 2 helicopter, 1 – Type 3 helicopter, 7 – water tenders, 1 – camp crew, and misc. overhead for a total of 164 personnel.

**Structures Threatened:** None at this time.

**Closures:** Forest Road 235 to the Langmuir Lab, atop Magdalena Ridge is closed to the public but is open to Fire and MRO / LL personnel only.

**This fire is being managed by the Gila / Las Cruces Zone Type 3 Team. For Further information regarding the Sawmill Fire, please contact Jim Apodaca at (575) 740-2996.**

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