



Forest Service

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Wildfire Daily Updates

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Bankhead National Forest – Big Tree Wildfire, Sipsey Wilderness Update

Incident: Big Tree Wildfire

Released: 10/18/2015-Time: 5:23 p.m.

Summary - A 222-acre wildfire is burning in the Sipsey Wilderness of the Bankhead National Forest as of Oct. 18, 2015. U.S. Forest Service fire personnel are taking immediate action to contain the fire that has temporarily closed four trails leading into the Sipsey Wilderness. The public living near the Sipsey Wilderness may see an increase in smoke and Forest Service personnel. Hikers are asked to check the Forest Service websites, bulletin boards and contact the Bankhead District Office for a listing of open trails and status updates.

Quick Facts

1. Wildland fire type: Wildland Fire (Wilderness)
2. Cause: Law Enforcement Officers are currently investigating
3. Reported: Oct. 16 to Bankhead District Dispatch by hikers at 4:14 p.m.
4. Location: Sipsey Wilderness in the Bankhead National Forest in northwest Alabama
5. Acres involved now: 222 acres as of Oct. 18
6. Equipment: (Aircrafts, dozers, etc...) No heavy equipment; only hand crews and leaf blowers
7. Personnel: (Number, Location, origin, etc...) 20 statewide (Alabama) U.S. Forest Service personnel.
9. Strategy: Hand crews and leaf blowers are used to have less impact and maintain wilderness value.
10. Overhead team arrival: Oct. 17, 2015
11. Incident Command Post-Bankhead District Office, 1070 Highway 33, Double Springs, AL, Phone: 205-489-5111