



Tohono O'odham Nation
Office of the
Chairman and Vice Chairwoman

Ned Norris Jr. Wavalene M. Saunders
Chairman Vice Chairwoman



Thursday, June 16, 2022

UPDATE ON CONTRERAS FIRE NORTH OF BABOQUIVARI PEAK

SELLS, Ariz. -- The Tohono O'odham Nation's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is continuing to coordinate with partner agencies to respond to the Contreras Fire in the Baboquivari Mountains north of Baboquivari Peak, which has burned approximately 6,660 acres and is 0% contained. This rapidly moving fire is burning in steep and difficult to access terrain. Air support is currently being used to slow the spread of the fire, while firefighters assess the situation. State Route 386 is closed at milepost 1 and the Kitt Peak Observatory has been evacuated.

This is a quickly evolving situation and evacuations in the area may become necessary. To prepare for this we have directed the OEM to prepare a shelter for any displaced individuals, including those that may have special needs. The Shelter will be in the Sells area and staffing and resources are being allocated should it become necessary. The Red Cross has also been engaged and is on-call to provide additional support.

The public should avoid the area for their own safety and take precautions against smoke inhalation, which can pose a danger to health. Children, Elders, pregnant women, people with asthma, and people with chronic heart and lung diseases are most at risk from smoke. More information is available on the OEM Facebook page.

During the summer fire season, please remember to practice wildfire safety. Be extremely cautious when starting open fires, never burn on windy days, and never toss cigarette butts. It can only take a few embers to ignite a wildfire.

Updates will continue to be provided on the Contreras Fire situation. For the latest information, please visit the OEM Facebook page at facebook.com/TON.Emergency.Management

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