



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

Ned Norris Jr. Wavalene M. Saunders  
Chairman Vice Chairwoman



Friday, June 17, 2022

**UPDATE ON CONTRERAS FIRE: PAN TAK COMMUNITY EVACUATED**  
***Media and Public Asked to Avoid Area as Fire Crews Respond to Uncontained Blaze***

SELLS, Ariz. – An evacuation notice was issued early this morning for the Community of Pan Tak in the Tohono O'odham Nation's Schuk Toak District, due to the spread of the Contreras Fire in the Baboquivari Mountains. A shelter has been established at the Sells Recreation Center for displaced individuals. The American Red Cross is providing additional assistance. Tohono O'odham Police Department Rangers are assisting with the evacuation and providing security for unoccupied homes. The fire has not reached the Pan Tak Community, but it has reached the Kitt Peak National Observatory.

The estimate of the Contreras Fire's size is currently 11,500 acres with 0% containment. The Tohono O'odham Nation's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) continues to coordinate with partner agencies responding to the fire. More than 300 personnel are involved in the firefighting operation.

While lower temperatures and a chance for precipitation this weekend are expected to slow the growth of the fire, this remains a rapidly evolving situation. Please stay alert for updates and take precautions against smoke inhalation. Please avoid the vicinity of the fire for your own safety.

Media is also instructed to stay away from the area of the fire, due to safety concerns and to avoid impacting fire crews' activities. This includes operating drones, which could pose a danger to air support efforts. The Nation's OEM and the other agencies involved will continue to provide regular updates.

For the latest information on the fire status, please visit the OEM Facebook page at [facebook.com/TON.Emergency.Management](https://facebook.com/TON.Emergency.Management).

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