



Big Levels Fire

Friday, December 13th, 2024 Update

Big Level Fire Stats

Total Acres: 1,316

Total Personnel: 113

Contained: 25%

Incident Management – The incident is being managed by a local US Forest Service Type 3 team.

Weather Outlook – Skies will be mostly sunny today, with highs in the mid-30s to 40s. Winds will be steady, around 5-10mph, with occasional gusts into the 30mph range. With lower humidity, finer fuels will continue to dry out. Additional precipitation is forecasted for the weekend.

Operations – Yesterday the fire showed no growth, but larger fuels, such as stumps, continued to smolder. Fire management personnel will continue to inspect the perimeter to identify any lingering hot spots that may threaten the line. Additional fire spread is not anticipated.

Crews will continue to improve containment features and conduct direct mop-up. The brushing operation up the Bald Mountain Jeep Trail will continue. An InfraRed (heat seeking) equipped drone has been assigned and will be operating over the fire area searching for hot spots.

Acreage & Containment – With data from personnel who walked the fire perimeter with GPS, the mapping system has revised the acreage and containment. Containment is a calculation between actual distance of the fire perimeter vs. where fire has touched a constructed containment line or has been directly mopped up and declared cold by personnel. Fire footprint remains the same today.

Safety – Closures remain implemented in the fire area (see below). We ask the public to heed these closures and allow firefighters to go about their work unimpeded. Also, with fire aviation operating in the area the use of personal drones presents a hazard to aircrews. Please understand, “If you fly, we can’t.” There will be a US Forest Service IR drone operating over the fire area on authorized missions.

Closures –The following areas are temporarily closed to all public use due to the Big Levels Fire to allow for public and firefighter safety (CFR 261.53, 261.54 & 261.55):

- Cold Springs Trail (FT# 524)
- Cellar Mountain Trail (FT#587)
- Bald Mountain Jeep Trail (FSR#162)
- Bald Mountain Spur Road (FSR#162A)
- Saint Mary's Trail (FT#500)
- Saint Mary's Gorge Trail (FT#500B)
- The national forest system lands north of the Saint Mary's Trail (#500) and within the area bounded by the Bald Mountain Jeep Trail (FSR#162) and the Coal Road (FSR#42) are also CLOSED.

Facebook: USDA Forest Service - [George Washington-Jefferson National Forest](#)

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