Office of Emergency Management

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PRESS RELEASE San Juan County, Colorado

SAN JUAN COUNTY: The Ice Fire started today Monday October 19th just after 1pm in the South Mineral Creek area above the Ice Lakes trail head. As of 5:00 PM, the fire has burned 320 acres and US Forest Services has air and ground wildland fire crews working on the Ice Fire.

On Monday October 19th, a wild fire broke out in the South Mineral recreation area just above the Ice Lake Trail head around 1pm. San Juan County Sheriff's Department handled an immediate evacuation of campers and hikers in the area. 23 hikers were located above the trailhead and were evacuated via helicopter.

The US Forest service is the lead agency on this wildfire and deployed helicopters, tanker planes and a hot shot squad.

There is no imminent threat of evacuation at this time for Silverton/ San Juan County residents. It is good to be prepared given the proximity of the Ice Fire. Silverton/San Juan County residents should familiarize themselves with the READY, SET, GO evacuation plan. This is a 3 phase plan that will be activated if an evacuation is ordered. Each step will be communicated with specific instructions for San Juan County citizens.

Please do not stop to watch aircraft and firefighting activities as this poses a hazard for fellow travelers. Smoke from the fire will be visible on Highway 550, Silverton, Durango, and other surrounding areas and communities. Smoke will be visible for the duration of the fire. Roadside signs will be posted to alert any travelers of smoke and firefighting personnel and equipment in the area. Wildfire smoke may affect your health. For more information, please go to:

https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health

Make sure to sign up for Public Alerts to receive emergency notifications on Nixle by texting 81433 to 888-777.

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