



Steward Observatory operates more than 20 telescopes on four different mountain ranges within Region 3 of the United States Forest Service, three different Arizona State Forest Service districts, and one under the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Although wildfire management is the responsibility of the Arizona State Forest Service districts and Tohono O'odham Nation, we at Steward Observatory need to do all that is possible to protect our employees and our specialized equipment.

Occasional visitors to the telescope sites should be familiar with wildfire safety including:

1. Be observant and look for locations of fire extinguishers
2. Be on the lookout for any forest fires and report fires to Emergency Services
3. Follow Management and/or Forest Service instructions in the event of a required evacuation
4. Follow the "No Smoking" policy on University property

Regular employees and frequent visitors assigned to specific telescope sites should know:

**Safety and Mitigation Measures for Wildfire Prevention:**

- Keep your work area clean and free of combustible materials
- Notify management of combustible material or piles that needs to be removed
- Participate as required in clearing brush and new growth within acceptable limits of the site each spring before fire season
- Follow the "No Smoking" policy on UA property, and enforce no smoking with all site visitors and other regular site personnel
- Implement and utilize a hot work permit system for all metal cutting and welding operations on site

**Be Prepared:**

- Each year, read and be familiar with the Site Emergency Response Plan and Fire Forest Service Fire Operation Plans
- Know the fire evacuation route
- Know the last resort or safe "shelter in place" location for the site
- Be sure your name is on the site emergency contact list and know the method of contact
- Know the site Emergency Coordinator and their contact information
- Know how to shut down your relevant systems in the event of a facility shutdown



- Learn which equipment must be stored or moved in the event of a fire and be ready to act - This may entail action to bring down systems and equipment in a safe manner
- Ensure proper storage of chemicals at all times so that no further action is needed during a wildfire beyond closing a valve or similar action
- Be aware of firefighting equipment (fast attack trucks) and Personal Protective Equipment (N-95 or mask-type respirator) on site and get trained on how to use them and where they are stored
- Take special training for Wildland Fire Training, CPR, Fire Extinguisher, and Red Card Certification as authorized by operations management at each site

#### **Exit Plan:**

- Follow the evacuation instructions
- Do not travel without management, ADOT, or Forest Service approval and instruction
- Do not remain at the site unless specifically authorized by UA and Forest Service, and have appropriate training for respiratory protection and other emergency procedures which may be applicable

#### **Return to Site & Recovery:**

- Follow the Management, ADOT, and Arizona State Forest Service guidelines for road closures
- Do not travel without management, ADOT, or Arizona State Forest Service approval and instruction
- Be aware of wildlife drawn to telescope site locations due to wildfire and follow the Forest Service or Tohono O'odham safety guidelines