

Fast Fire Sweep 2 24/01

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Youngson Weist

Dense clouds of smoke rise from the parched national forests of three ^{American} states — Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico. Raging out of control, ~~fires have already transformed thousands of acres into blackened~~ ~~stable~~. In the ~~Black Range timberlands~~ of New Mexico alone, the loss is thirty thousand acres in six days — with thousands more threatened. An army of fire fighters, twelve hundred strong, wages a hot, dirty and dangerous battle against the advancing line of flames. ~~UP~~ ~~UP~~ Bulldozers join the fight — but in some areas the wind-fanned blaze jumps barricades and sweeps onward. Aided by months of drought, the Southwest's worst forest fires in years take a terrible toll of a precious national resource.

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