



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

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### **Governor Richardson Marshalls State Resources to Help Fight Valencia County, East Side Fires**

(Santa Fe, NM) – Governor Bill Richardson has ordered all state agencies to deliver whatever assistance is needed to help fight several Bosque fires in Valencia County and to aid residents who have been evacuated from their homes.

“State fire resources are already on the scene and additional reserves stand ready to help the people of Valencia County,” said Governor Richardson. “One of the reasons I have been so vigilant at keeping the state’s financial reserves at a healthy level is because of the danger that wildfires pose. I will continue to provide whatever state resources are necessary to help us fight these fires.”

State forestry resources are currently on the scene helping to coordinate the fire suppression efforts. The Belen Fire is currently estimated to be 700 acres in size and is located south of the Belen River Bridge (HW 309) in Valencia County. State Forestry reports that the fire has apparently jumped the river to the east side and is actively burning. Evacuation of a mobile home community is being conducted by local law enforcement and shelters have been opened at two local elementary schools.

State and local fire crews are also working several grass fires on the eastern side of the state, south of Causey.

Fire prevention tips include:

- Remove flammable debris
- Keep roofs and rain gutters free of needles, leaves, and other flammable material.

- Keep firewood and other flammable material a minimum of 50 feet from the house or other structures on your property.
- Mow grasses and weeds to a height of less than 6 inches within 50 feet of the home.
- Use fire resistant landscaping

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