

Evac order issued for Fort Wingate missile launch

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GALLUP — A temporary closure order has been issued for the Zuni Mountain area adjacent to Fort Wingate Army Depot to protect the public before and during the planned launch and pre-launch periods of the U.S. Army's missile test at Fort Wingate and Little Bear area.

The order issued by the U.S. Forest Service for the Six Mile Canyon area in the Zuni Mountains portion of Cibola National Forest's Mount Taylor Ranger District becomes effective at 6 p.m. Tuesday and is to remain in effect until 4 p.m. Wednesday, or until rescinded, whichever occurs first.

“People living within the re-

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stricted area will need to be evacuated. The special closure will allow for enforcement of the closure area," it states.

An order is needed to be able to cite persons unwilling to comply with the special order, according to documents released Friday. Digitally signed by Forest Supervisor Steven Hattenbach, the order is designed to minimize exposure of the public to potentially hazardous conditions associated with the launch.

The Restricted Area is within Township 14N., Range 16W., Sections 1, 2, 3, 5-24, and 27-35; Township 13N., Range 16W., Sections 2-6; and Township 14N., Range 16W., Sections 7, 8, and 18, specifically all National Forest System lands within the boundary starting at the Forest Service gate on National Forest System Road 547 in Six Mile Canyon, then following 547 south for 4.6 miles to the intersection of the section lines of Sections 23, 24, 25, and 26, then following south along the section line between Sections 25 and 26, until the SE corner of Section 2, T13N., T16W., then following the section line west to the SW corner of Section 6, T13N., R16W. (excluding private inholdings),

then following the Cibola National Forest boundary north, then east, back to the point of beginning, which is the Forest Service gate on NFSR 547 in Six Mile Canyon.

Violation of the order is a Class B misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both.

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