

Drones causing problems battling Pinal Fire

BY: [John Genovese](#)

POSTED: 4:48 AM, May 30, 2017

UPDATED: 8:18 AM, May 30, 2017

TAG: [southern arizona](#)

Share Article

GLOBE, AZ - Hobbyists trying to capture photos or video of the [Pinal Fire](#), burning nearly 7,000 acres near Globe, have caused firefighting efforts to slow down or stop four times.

"One of the drops on the Pinal Fire, the air tanker, the pilot actually had to drop at a higher altitude -- so basically that makes the retardant ineffective," public affairs officer Tiffany Davila with the Department of Forestry and Fire Management told ABC15.

"It's basically like flushing money down the toilet," she said.

Flying a drone over a wildfire is against federal law, carrying the potential for jail time and fines up to \$25,000. Still, Davila says the average cost of a wasted fire retardant drop is around \$30,000.

"Having to suspend operations is not only coming out of our pocket, it's coming out of the taxpayers pocket as well," she said.

The department is working with state and federal partners on an outreach campaign using the simple message: "If you fly, we can't"

Davila says in one of the four recent cases, law enforcement was able to track down a drone pilot and seize the aircraft.

For more information on drones and wildfires, [click here](#).

Copyright 2017 Scripps Media, Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

Receive top stories directly to your inbox.

Type your email

SUBSCRIBE

Thank you and welcome!

YOUR REGION NEWS

OTHER STORIES

Soccer league calls Pinal County leader vandals

A fight is raging between a youth soccer coach and Pinal County officials who said the club's recruiting efforts are a literally a sign of trouble.



Queen Creek schools expand counseling resources

Since 2007, the suicide rate among adolescents and teens has been trending the wrong direction. The rate for middle schoolers has doubled and, according to the CDC, 8 percent of high school students report attempting suicide each year.



DPS: 2 dead, 4 hurt after rollover on SR-87

The Arizona Department of Public Safety says two people were killed in a crash along State Route 87 early Thursday morning.



Downburst winds likely caused Gold Canyon damage

Parts of Gold Canyon experienced damage from monsoon storms that rolled through the area on Monday night.



PHOTOS: Dust blows south of the Valley on Sunday

Check out these photos of blowing dust south of the Valley on Sunday evening.

close

close