



NEWS RELEASE

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Prescribed Fire Planned Jan. 27-28 on Holloman Air Force Base

HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. – A prescribed fire will be conducted on Holloman AFB January 27-28. The treatment area, which consists of multiple wood piles over approximately 130 acres in three different locations, is designed to reduce hazardous fuels and aid in the removal of Salt Cedar, an invasive species.

The first pile burn area is immediately outside the former Golf Course. The second pile burn location is near the Fire Training area off of Sabre Road. The third pile burn area is immediately west of the former Balloon Pad, north of Kelly Road.

“Part of the mission of the Civil Engineer Squadron at Holloman is to ensure the health of the natural environment on base,” said Lt. Col. Brian Wernle, 49th Civil Engineer Squadron commander. “This prescribed burn is crucial in our efforts to control and ultimately eradicate the salt cedar, which is a non-native tree that pulls significant amounts of water from native vegetation. Eliminating salt cedars protects New Mexico’s native species and the prescribed burn reduces the wildfire risk across the installation.”

Smoke will likely be visible from Alamogordo, Tularosa, Holloman, White Sands National Park, and surrounding communities. Lingering smoke may be present for a few days after ignitions are complete.

Smoke-sensitive individuals and people with respiratory problems are encouraged to take precautionary measures. Reference the New Mexico Department of Health website at <https://nmtracking.org/fire> for information on air quality and protecting your health.

For questions about the prescribed burn, please contact the 49th Wing Public Affairs Office at 49wg.paoffice@us.af.mil or 575-572-7381.