

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0309

June 14, 2021

The Honorable Joe R. Biden
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20050

The Honorable Deanne Criswell
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. President and Administrator Criswell:

I am writing to request that you expeditiously conduct a damage assessments of the Mescal Fire and develop a relief response for the San Carlos Apache Tribe in Arizona. Enclosed you will find a letter from the Chairman of the San Carlos Apache Tribe, Mr. Terry Rambler, that contains additional details about the fire's impact to the tribe.

The Mescal Fire is currently burning on the San Carlos Apache reservation. To date, over 72,250 acres have been consumed by the fire. Governor Doug Ducey and the San Carlos Apache Tribe have issued state of emergency declarations. The Bureau of Land Management, the federal agency leading the interagency fire response, deployed more than 700 fire personnel to suppress the fire. During the course of the fire, several tribal communities were evacuated. Livestock operations and infrastructure have been damaged and the rangeland devastated. The tribe also reports the tragic loss of medicinal plants and Emory Oak trees in this fire and the nearby Telegraph Fire.

I met with Chairman Rambler and both incident commanders of the Mescal Fire and Telegraph Fire. Based on the information I've received, it is clear that summer monsoon rains could increase the risk of post-fire flood events on the reservation due to the loss of vegetation in the fire. The San Carlos Apache Tribe will need federal resources to recover and rebuild from these fires.

Thank you for your attention to this timely request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Kelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and the last name "Kelly" clearly distinguishable.

Mark Kelly
United States Senator