



U.S. Forest Service
 Pacific Southwest Region
 Los Padres National Forest
 6750 Navigator Way
 Goleta, California 93117

Thomas Fire Update

For Immediate Release: December 24, 2017 7:00AM

Start Date: December 4, 2017 Cause: Under Investigation Size: 273,400 acres

Containment: 70% (The containment estimate was posted incorrectly yesterday due to a typo. We apologize for any confusion this has created.)

Personnel: 1,586 Structures Destroyed: 1,063 Structures Damaged: 280

Current Situation: The fire line from Ventura to Santa Barbara is contained and secure. Even though fuels in the fire area remain critically dry, with shorter days and lack of significant winds, no forward progress of the fire is expected. Firefighters are building upon previous gains by strengthening established containment lines adjacent to communities and other infrastructure. Mop up operations along the fire perimeter and active patrol are ongoing. Repair work is underway to mitigate impacts from fire suppression activity. Firefighting crews and aircraft remain available to address flare-ups or new fire starts in the area.

Smoke seen yesterday near Tule Creek was from a hotspot that flared up well within the interior of the burned area. It posed no threat to nearby fire lines. Hotspots remain in the Bear Heaven area. Air support with water drops is being used due to steep, rugged terrain with limited access.

Residents and visitors to Santa Barbara and Ventura counties may see an increase in wildlife in local communities due to displacement from the fire. Individuals who encounter these displaced animals are encouraged to maintain a safe distance, refrain

from feeding them, and if a threat to humans is perceived call 911 (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/living-with-wildlife>).

Fire Weather: Wind: 10 mph off shore. Temp: Highs in the 60s to low 70s. Humidity: 5-15%.

Closures: Sr33/Fairview Rd. is closed. Portions of Los Padres National Forest remain closed. Download the [closure order](#) and [map](#) on the Los Padres National Forest web page.

Evacuations: There are currently no *mandatory evacuation orders* in effect. Residents on Highway 33 between Rose Valley north to Hartman Ranch remain under a *voluntary evacuation warning* due to fire activity in the nearby areas.

Air Quality: Smoke may be visible at times due to interior hotspots that come to life as dry weather conditions persist. Smoke and ashfall from these flare-ups may occur in some areas such as Rose Valley and Ojai. An updated air quality report may be found at <http://www.ourair.org> or <http://www.vcapcd.org>.

[Download a printable version of this update.](#)

For more information on Ready, Set, Go, go to www.readyforwildfire.org For more fire information go to https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5670

Ventura County Fire Information Line: 805.465.6650
Santa Barbara County Fire Information Line: 800.400.1572
Media Line: 925.588.6904
Thomas Fire Information: 805.826.1357