



ZACA FIRE UPDATE



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Wednesday, August 8, 2007 8:00 PM Fire Information Line - (805) 961-5770

Incident Name: Zaca Fire **Location:** 15 miles northeast of Buellton, Santa Barbara County

Joint Unified Incident Management Teams: Los Padres National Forest and Santa Barbara County Fire Dept

Start Date & Report Time: July 4, 2007 at 10:53 AM

Acres: 73,250 Acres **Percent Containment:** 72 percent **Estimated Containment** September 7, 2007

Resources: Hand Crews: 68; Dozers: 18; Engines: 105; Water Tenders: 38; Helicopters: 14; Air Tankers: 8; Air Attack: 2; **Total Personnel:** 2,411; **Injuries:** 15; **Structures Threatened:** 595; **Fireline-to-Build:** 54 miles; **Estimated Cost-to-Date:** \$56.7 million

Significant Events: The EVACUATION WARNING for Happy Canyon Road above Baseline Road, including the communities of Tunnel Ranch, Rancho De Los Vistadores, and the Sedgwick Ranch has been lifted. An EVACUATION ORDER for Peachtree Community, Paradise Road and Lower Santa Ynez River Road to Gibraltar Dam remains in effect. The Evacuation Order includes the Paradise Road Community, Santa Ynez Road Recreational Areas to Gibraltar Dam, Los Prietos Boys Camp, and the Rancho Oso Guest Ranch. The Los Padres National Forest **expanded closure** is in effect. The closure area is approximately 649,000 acres and is between Hwy 166 in northern Santa Barbara County and Highway 33 and Matilija Canyon in Ventura County.

Current Situation: The fire remained active in the east flank and around Indian Creek Canyon due to lower humidity, decreased marine layer, and higher temperatures. Crews continue to improve contingency lines from Paradise Road to Gibraltar Dam. The Bluff, Doty, and the Santa Cruz historic cabins were saved with the work of crews preparing the structures with wrapping material and brush clearance. Fire crews also pre-treated the Cold Springs Tavern and the Chumash Painted Cave historical site with wrapping and brush clearance. Engine crews, hand crews, and dozers will continue improving contingency lines and preparing for structure protection in the Paradise and Camino Cielo communities. On the north and northeast side of the fire, the fire was backing, creeping and smoldering most of the morning until afternoon southwest winds picked up. Most of the significant runs today were the result of topography and dry vegetation. Tomorrow firefighters will begin line construction from Sierra Madre Ridge to Sisquoc River on the Sweetwater Ridge Trail. They will also prepare for a burnout and holding actions along Sierra Madre Ridge/Buckhorn Road to Dry Creek.

A Cal Fire Base Camp has been established at the Earl Warren Show Grounds. It will be the base camp for the "Front Country Support Group" or personnel and equipment that are currently preplanning for the Santa Barbara frontcountry communities. This group will support firefighting resources that would provide structure protection if the fire threatened those communities. Due to increased size and complexity, the Zaca Fire has also been divided into two zones: firefighters from the Live Oak Base Camp will continue with containment efforts on the south and southeast flanks. Firefighters from the Richardson Base Camp located in New Cuyama will be working on containment of the north and northeast portions of the fire.

Current Forest and Road Closures:

- Happy Canyon Road is **closed** at Los Padres National Forest boundary.
- Figueroa Mountain Road is **closed** at the Los Padres National Forest boundary.
- East Camino Cielo is **closed** between Painted Cave Road and Gibraltar Road due to fire equipment traffic.
- Paradise Road is within the Evacuation Order Area and is currently closed.
- **Update**-Hwy 154 is closed to general traffic between Foothill Road and the T-Bill Ranch. Travelers driving on San Marcos Pass (Hwy 154) should tune to 1040 AM.
- Los Padres National Forest closure information and map are available at www.inciweb.org.

Safety Message: Travelers using SR-154, please be cautious of firefighting equipment and personnel. Gibraltar Road, Painted Cave Road and East Camino Cielo residents are also asked to be cautious of firefighting equipment and personnel.