

ZACA FIRE UPDATE

Friday, August 17, 2007 8:00 AM

Joint Unified Command: Los Padres National Forest and Santa Barbara County Fire Department

On the Web: www.sbcfire.com or www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres or www.inciweb.org

Fire Information Phone Line: (805) 961-5770

Fire Status	Resources
Acres Burned: 143,212 acres	Crews: 69
Acres Increase (last 12 hours): 8,816 acres	Engines: 213
Fireline to Build: 7 miles	Helicopters: 21
Date Started: July 4, 2007 at 10:53 am	Air Tankers: 8
Percent Contained: 59 percent	Air Attack: 3
Expected Containment: September 7, 2007	Dozers: 57
Injuries: 29	Water Tenders: 101
Structures Threatened: 595	Total Personnel Assigned: 2,852
Structures Destroyed: 1 outbuilding	Cost to Date: \$76.3 million

Headlines:

There will be an informational meeting on the Zaca Fire, tonight, August 17 at the Halfway Cafe near Ventucopa on Highway 33. The meeting will begin at 7 pm.

Current Situation:

On the northern perimeter, firefighters have successfully completed 20 miles of backfiring to remove vegetation between the indirect fireline and the active portion of the fire in Sisquoc, Cliff and Sweetwater Canyons. Today, firefighters will continue to construct line on Sweetwater Ridge towards Sisquoc Canyon in order to stop the northwest progress of the fire in the San Rafael Wilderness. On the east perimeter, the fire is well established in Mono Canyon and continues to burn towards the Matilija Wilderness. A backfiring operation will begin near Three Sisters Peak. The active fire on the east perimeter is still 20 miles from Ojai and is burning within the indirect fire lines that the incident commanders have established to contain this fire.

Hwy 33 between Ojai and Cuyama and the Lockwood Road may close Saturday while firefighters conduct a firing operation to secure the fireline on the eastern perimeter of the fire. The decision to close the road is dependent on fire activity. Incident Commanders are working with the California Highway Patrol in conjunction with Santa Barbara and Ventura County Sheriff Offices on a traffic closure plan.

The fire is established in the Agua Caliente and Diablo Canyon drainages east of the Ogilvy Ranch and south of the Hildreth Jeep Trail. This has prompted fire officials to execute predetermined plans to utilize firing operations in the eastern area of the fire near the Ogilvy Ranch area. These firing operations are designed to keep firefighters ahead of the fire to remove unburned fuel. Contingency lines in the areas of Paradise Road, Camino Cielo Road, Camuesa Road, the Sierra Madre Ridge, Pendola Road, and the Matilija Wilderness are completed. These fuel breaks provide potential containment and may be used for firing operations in the event that changing conditions warrant such actions. Additional contingency efforts include improving the following fuelbreaks: Romero, Toro, Rincon, Oil, Santa Monica, Snowball, Chismahoo, and Rice-Wills. These fuelbreaks run west to east from Romero Canyon to Lake Casitas.

Forest, Road and Area 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 Warning Area and is currently **open to residents only**.
- The Zaca Fire Area Closure in Los Padres National Forest has been expanded to include additional lands in Santa Barbara, Ventura and Kern Counties. The expanded closure now encompasses approximately 888,000 acres including the entire San Rafael, Matilija and Chumash Wildernesses, a portion of the Sespe Wilderness and adjacent national forest lands. Detailed information on the closure can be found at www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres or www.inciweb.org or your local Forest Service Office.

Evacuations:

- The EVACUATION ORDER for Paradise Road residents, Los Prietos Boys Camp, and the Rancho Oso Guest Ranch has been downgraded to an EVACUATION WARNING.
- The Santa Ynez River Road campgrounds, day use areas and trailheads remain closed.