

ZACA FIRE UPDATE

Friday, August 17, 2007 8:00 PM

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: 155,445 acres	Crews: 77
Acres Increase (last 12 hours): 12,233 acres	Engines: 121
Fireline to Build: 4 miles	Helicopters: 21
Date Started: July 4, 2007 at 10:53 am	Air Tankers: 8
Percent Contained: 61 percent	Air Attack: 3
Expected Containment: September 7, 2007	Dozers: 34
Injuries: 29	Water Tenders: 80
Structures Threatened: 595	Total Personnel Assigned: 2,958
Structures Destroyed: 1 outbuilding	Cost to Date: \$78.7 million

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 continued to construct line down 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 west of the Matilija Wilderness. Tonight, firefighters will begin a backfire operation near Three Sisters Peak in order to stop the forward progress of the fire into the Matilija Wilderness. **Hwy 33 between Wheeler Gorge and Ventucopa will close tonight at 8:00 pm except to residents. The closure is the result of smoke from the active fire burning west of Matilija Wilderness. The Highway will be closed until it can safely be reopened to thru traffic.**

The fire has established itself in the Agua Caliente drainage but remains above the Diablo Canyon drainage east of the Ogilvy Ranch and south of the Hildreth Jeep Trail. A five acre slopover occurred along the Monte Arido Fuel Break at Diablo Canyon and was contained using air tankers and helicopters. Crews are being moved into the area to begin holding actions. Additional crews are being held in place at Ogilvy Ranch for deployment in the morning. Backfiring operations are in progress along Monte Arido Fuel Break south to Pendola Road. These operations are designed to consume fuel in the path of the fire and help change the direction of the fire. To help facilitate fire operations a helicopter base was established at Lake Casitas.

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.