

ZACA FIRE UPDATE

Monday, August 20, 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: 214,725 acres	Crews: 70
Acres Increase (last 12 hours): 15,137 acres	Engines: 101
Fireline to Build: 3 miles	Helicopters: 22
Date Started: July 4, 2007 at 10:53 am	Air Tankers: 8
Percent Contained: 75 percent	Air Attack: 3
Expected Containment: September 7, 2007	Dozers: 41
Injuries: 30	Water Tenders: 81
Structures Threatened: 581	Total Personnel Assigned: 3,053
Structures Destroyed: 1 outbuilding	Cost to Date: \$ 84.8 million

Headlines:

- Hwy 33 between Wheeler Gorge and Ventucopa is closed to all traffic except for residents. Residents are required to carry identification to access areas within the road closure.

Current Situation:

On the northwest perimeter, the fire is well established in Foresters Leap Canyons on the north rim of Sisquoc Canyon. Incident Commanders are developing contingency plans for a backfire operation along the Cottonwood Road on Sierra Madre Ridge. On the northeast perimeter, the fire continues to be active in the Dick Smith Wilderness, one mile west of Highway 33. Today, the strategy is to continue a backfire operation from Cuyama Peak Road in Dry Canyon towards Highway 33 and a backfire operation from Highway 33 north to Ozena. These backfire operations are intended to provide a good secure line on the east perimeter of the fire in order to stop the forward progress of the fire.

Today as weather conditions permit, firefighting in the southeastern section of the Zaca Fire will continue along the Hildreth and Pendola Jeepways. Crews will continue to ignite vegetation along the jeepways to remove fuels between the fireline and the main fire. This firing operation is expected to begin early in the morning and last as long as weather conditions are favorable.

Firefighting resources staged at the Ventura County Fairgrounds are creating and reopening fuelbreaks, clearing roads, and providing structure protection. The firefighters will also be available for initial attack for Ventura County and the Los Padres National Forest.

Warmer and drier weather forecasted through Tuesday evening will challenge fire fighting efforts to complete the firelines. A fire weather watch has been issued due to low humidity.

Forest, Road and Area Closures:

- Hwy 33 between Wheeler Gorge and Ventucopa will be **closed** to all traffic except for residents.
- 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 the Forest Service.

Evacuations:

- A **PRECAUTIONARY EVACUATION** for residents along the west side of Highway 33 from the Ventura/Santa Barbara County Line to Pine Mountain Summit.
- The **EVACUATION ORDER** for Paradise Road residents, Los Prietos Boys Camp, and the Rancho Oso Guest Ranch has been downgraded to an **EVACUATION WARNING**.
- An **EVACUATION WARNING** has been issued for East Camino Cielo Road from Gibraltar Road east to the Ventura County Line including Gibraltar Reservoir and Jameson Lake.
- The Santa Ynez River Road campgrounds, day use areas and trailheads remain closed.