

ZACA FIRE UPDATE

Thursday, August 16, 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: 134,396 acres	Crews: 69
Acres Increase (last 12 hours): 7,152 acres	Engines: 127
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: 35
Injuries: 29	Water Tenders: 73
Structures Threatened: 595	Total Personnel Assigned: 2,917
Structures Destroyed: 1 outbuilding	Cost to Date: \$76.2 million

Headlines:

There will be an informational meeting on the Zaca Fire on Friday, August 17 at the Halfway House in Ventucopa on Highway 33. The meeting will be at 7 pm.

Current Situation:

The fire has reached the Agua Caliente Canyon, east of the Ogilvy Ranch and south of the Hildreth Jeep Trail. Therefore, fire officials have reached the decision point to execute predetermined plans to utilize firing operations. This strategy will only be utilized when the necessary firelines and safety considerations are in place. Current direct and indirect attack strategies will continue as fire managers review and reassess contingency plans in coordination with the Command Team assigned to the north. Weather conditions are expected to be cooler tomorrow with temperatures ranging from the 70's to the 80's with the relative humidity in the teens. The inversion layer present today helped slow the progression of the fire and was also responsible for the smoke that was visible in the coastal and surrounding communities.

On the northern perimeter, firefighters continued a backfire operation from Santa Barbara Canyon to Sweetwater Ridge. The operation has been successful in establishing over five miles of control line for that area of the fire. Firefighters are also backfiring along Sweetwater Ridge towards the 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. The fire continues to burn towards the Matilija Wilderness and is about 20 miles from Ojai. The active fire is still 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 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.**

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.