

ZACA FIRE UPDATE

Saturday, August 18, 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: 171,750 acres	Crews: 75
Acres Increase (last 12 hours): 16,305 acres	Engines: 116
Fireline to Build: 4 miles	Helicopters: 22
Date Started: July 4, 2007 at 10:53 am	Air Tankers: 8
Percent Contained: 65 percent	Air Attack: 3
Expected Containment: September 7, 2007	Dozers: 37
Injuries: 29	Water Tenders: 79
Structures Threatened: 595	Total Personnel Assigned: 2,963
Structures Destroyed: 1 outbuilding	Cost to Date: \$78.9 million

Current Situation:

Yesterday, with the lifting of the inversion layer, multiple convection columns were observed throughout coastal and surrounding communities in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Firefighters were able to keep pace with the fire in the Ogilvy Ranch area, keeping it north of the ranch road and east of the ranch. Last night the fire was minimally active in Diablo Canyon. Today, firing operations will continue on the Pendola Jeepway Road from the Monte Arido Fuel Break. These firing operations are designed to consume fuel in the path of the fire to help suppress and change the direction of the fire.

On the northern perimeter, firefighters continue to mop up and strengthen the line from Sweetwater Ridge east to Santa Barbara Canyon. Firefighters will continue to construct line in the Sweetwater Ridge area 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. Firefighters will begin a backfire operation from Three Sisters Peak northeast to Highway 33. To help facilitate backfiring operations on the northern and eastern front of the fire, a helicopter base has been established at Lake Casitas in Ventura County.

Hwy 33 between Wheeler Gorge and Ventucopa is closed except to local traffic only. The closure is the result of smoke and a possible backfiring operation along Hwy 33. The Highway will be closed until it can safely be reopened to thru traffic.

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**.
- 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.