

ZACA FIRE UPDATE

Saturday, August 18, 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: 183,408 acres	Crews: 72
Acres Increase (last 12 hours): 11,650 acres	Engines: 118
Fireline to Build: 3 miles	Helicopters: 20
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: 39
Injuries: 30	Water Tenders: 78
Structures Threatened: 595	Total Personnel Assigned: 2,945
Structures Destroyed: 1 outbuilding	Cost to Date: \$81.7 million

Headlines:

- Hwy 33 between Wheeler Gorge and Ventucopa is closed except to local traffic only. Beginning at 10:00 am on Sunday, August 1, this section of Hwy 33 will be closed to all traffic, including residents.
- The Ventura County Fire Department and the U.S. Forest Service will hold an information meeting on the Zaca Fire at 2:00 pm on Sunday at the Matilija Junior High, 703 El Paseo Road in Ojai.

Current Situation:

Firefighters conducted firing operations along the Pendola Jeepway and the Ogilvy Ranch area as favorable winds allowed them to make extensive progress with this tactic today. These firing operations, designed to consume fuel in the path of the fire to help suppress and change the fires direction, will continue tomorrow if conditions are favorable.

On the northeast perimeter, the fire became active in the Deal and Rancho Nuevo Canyons in the Dick Smith Wilderness 3 miles west of Highway 33. As a result of the activity, the Ventura County Sheriff's Office issued a **precautionary evacuation** for residents along the west side of Highway 33 from the Ventura/Santa Barbara County Line to Pine Mountain Summit beginning Saturday, August 18, 2007 at 6:00 pm. The fire became active in the Sisquoc Canyon and firefighters were pulled out of the Sweetwater Ridge area due to safety concerns. On the east perimeter, a backfire operation was successful in holding the fire west of the Matilija Wilderness. Tonight, firefighters will begin a backfire operation from Three Sisters Peak northeast to Highway 33. Tomorrow, a backfiring operation will be conducted from Pine Mountain Road to Ozena. This operation will require the closure of Highway 33 to all 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:

- Hwy 33 between Wheeler Gorge and Ventucopa is **closed** except to local traffic only.
- 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.