

ZACA FIRE UPDATE

Monday, August 20, 2007 8:00 PM

Joint Unified Command: Los Padres National Forest and Santa Barbara County Fire Department

On the Web: www.sbcbfire.com or www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres or www.inciweb.org

Fire Information Phone Line: (805) 961-5770

| Fire Status | Resources |
|--|--|
| Acres Burned: 215,692 acres | Crews: 69 |
| Acres Increase (last 12 hours): 967 acres | Engines: 125 |
| Fireline to Build: 3 miles | Helicopters: 22 |
| Date Started: July 4, 2007 at 10:53 am | Air Tankers: 8 |
| Percent Contained: 77 percent | Air Attack: 3 |
| Expected Containment: September 7, 2007 | Dozers: 56 |
| Injuries: 35 | Water Tenders: 80 |
| Structures Threatened: 581 | Total Personnel Assigned: 3,162 |
| Structures Destroyed: 1 outbuilding | Cost to Date: \$ 87.4 million |

Current Situation:

On the northwest perimeter, the fire is well established in Foresters Leap Canyon on the north rim of Sisquoc Canyon. Incident Commanders are planning a backfire operation along the Sierra Madre Ridge to contain the northern progress of the fire. On the northeast perimeter, the fire has actively burned in the Dick Smith Wilderness and is now less than a mile from the eastern boundary of the wilderness. This evening, firefighters will continue backfiring from the Cuyama Lookout Road towards Highway 33 along Dry Canyon. On the southeast perimeter, firefighters suspended backfire operations today near Potrero Seco Ranch and Pine Mountain Summit due to spot fires over the established dozer lines. All spot fires have been contained except for one. Tonight, firefighters will continue backfiring from Pine Mountain Summit to Ozena. These backfire operations are intended to provide a good secure line on the northeast and southeast perimeters of the fire.

Today, hand crews constructed fireline directly next to the fire's edge along the south eastern portion of the fire. Secondary dozer lines were constructed below the direct handline in support of obtaining containment objectives. Some burning occurred in the interior section of the southwestern area of the fire. Rehabilitation of firelines and contingency lines will begin tomorrow.

Due to predicted low humidity, a red flag warning has been issued for the fire area until Wednesday night.

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

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.