

# CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



## TUOLUMNE-CALAVERAS UNIT



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### RELEASE

DATE: August 23, 2001

TIME 1700 hours

### The Leonard Fire Update

San Andreas—"The Leonard Fire is generating gigantic plumes of smoke due to planned backfiring operations this afternoon," reported Incident Commander Steve Lombardo. "The intentionally lit back fires are necessary operations which reduce the available fuels within established containment lines," continued Lombardo. Six air tankers and 7 helicopters have been bombing the area with fire retardant and water since this morning.

"Due to smoky conditions, persons with asthma or other respiratory disease, the elderly and small children should avoid going outdoors," said Dr. Kelaita, Calaveras County Health Officer. "As a precaution, avoid outdoor exercise and strenuous activities," added Kelaita. Anyone with health problems related to air quality should contact their private physician or in the event of a medical emergency call 9-1-1.

Firefighters are racing against the clock as warmer and drier conditions are predicted for Friday. If Mother Nature cooperates and firefighters get the upper hand, containment may be reached Saturday, August 25, 2001 by 6:00 P.M.

**Doster Road and Hawver Road remain closed.** For information regarding road access or restrictions, call the **CHP San Andreas Office from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM at 754-3541** and at their Stockton Dispatch center **after 5:00 PM at 943-8600.**

An evacuation center is located at the Calaveras High School in the old gymnasium, located off Highway 49 in San Andreas. People are reminded to use Gold Strike Road for access to the center. Red Cross signs are located on Gold Strike Road. If you are trying to find friends or relatives call the **Red Cross at 533-1513.**

Calaveras County Fairgrounds has a temporary animal shelter in operation. Sufficient donations have been received at this time. For assistance with evacuating animals, call **Animal Control at 754-6509.**

Local residents may call the 24-hour **CDF Fire Information Center at 754-5773, 754-4692, and 754-5527.** Other information may be found at the CDF Website at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov) and the County's Website at [www.co.calaveras.ca.us](http://www.co.calaveras.ca.us).

