

CALIFORNIA FIRE SIEGE 2007

AN OVERVIEW





Cover photos from top clockwise:

The Santiago Fire threatens a development on October 23, 2007.

(Photo credit: Scott Vickers, istockphoto)

Image of Harris Fire taken from Ikhana unmanned aircraft on October 24, 2007.

(Photo credit: NASA/U.S. Forest Service)

A firefighter tries in vain to cool the flames of a wind-whipped blaze.

(Photo credit: Dan Elliot)

The American Red Cross acted quickly to establish evacuation centers during the siege.

(Photo credit: American Red Cross)

Opposite Page:

Painting of Harris Fire by Kate Dore, based on photo by Wes Schultz.



Introductory Statement

In October of 2007, a series of large wildfires ignited and burned hundreds of thousands of acres in Southern California. The fires displaced nearly one million residents, destroyed thousands of homes, and sadly took the lives of 10 people.

Shortly after the fire siege began, a team was commissioned by CAL FIRE, the U.S. Forest Service and OES to gather data and measure the response from the numerous fire agencies involved. This report is the result of the team's efforts and is based upon the best available information and all known facts that have been accumulated.

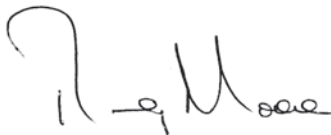
In addition to outlining the fire conditions leading up to the 2007 siege, this report presents statistics—including availability of firefighting resources, acreage engaged, and weather conditions—alongside the strategies that were employed by fire commanders to create a complete day-by-day account of the firefighting effort.

The ability to protect the lives, property, and natural resources of the residents of California is contingent upon the strength of cooperation and coordination among federal, state and local firefighting agencies. By utilizing the information contained within this report, fire managers will create lessons learned that will be utilized continually to improve the response to wildfires.



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Introduction

In late October 2007, Southern California experienced an unusually severe fire weather event characterized by intense, dry, gusty Santa Ana winds. This weather event drove a series of destructive wildfires that took a devastating toll on people, property, natural resources, and infrastructure. Although some fires burned into early November, the heaviest damage occurred during the first three days of the siege while the winds were the strongest.

During this siege, 17 people lost their lives, 10 were killed by the fires outright, three were killed while evacuating, four died from other fire siege related causes, and 140 firefighters and an unknown number of civilians were injured. A total of 3,069 homes and other buildings were destroyed, and hundreds more were damaged. Hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated at the height of the siege. The fires burned over half a million acres, including populated areas, wildlife habitat and watershed. Portions of the electrical power distribution network, telecommunications systems, and even some community water sources were destroyed. Transportation was disrupted over a large area for several days, including numerous road closures. Both the Governor of California and the President of the United States personally toured the ongoing fires. Governor Schwarzenegger proclaimed a state of emergency in seven counties before the end of the first day. President Bush quickly declared a major disaster. While the total impact of the 2007 fire siege was less than the disastrous fires of 2003, it was unquestionably one of the most devastating wildfire events in the history of California.



An untouched home in the background stands in contrast to the destruction of neighboring properties.

KEVIN KEY

Purpose

This report provides a broad, factual overview of the fire siege, documenting key events, providing summary statistics and serving as a reference for other reviews, investigations, studies and reports.

While firefighters gained control of the fires, a team of state and federal fire specialists gathered information to develop this factual report to recount the collective response of various organizations to the siege. The team has attempted to present the complexities of managing a large fire siege, and has included a broad array of information. The report provides detailed information about the day-to-day tactical firefighting effort, as well as the numerous social and political considerations that influenced strategic decisions.

This report is not an in-depth analysis and assessment of specific fire events, as these issues will be addressed in other efforts that will continue for several years.



The Contents

Fire Events and Policy includes a synopsis of significant large and damaging wildfires in California since 1923. It describes some key public policy actions establishing the multi-agency firefighting organization in place during this siege. It places a special emphasis on relevant activities and events that took place from 2004 through 2006.

The Prelude to the Siege describes events that took place during the year prior to the fire siege. It emphasizes major fires and the development of conditions that increased the magnitude of the October wildfires beyond what normally would have been expected.

Meteorological Events Timeline and Preparation recounts the six days leading up to the siege detailing the developing fire weather conditions, and actions taken by state and federal wildland fire agencies and local fire departments to prepare for the possibility of a major fire event.

The Fires provides a daily chronology written from the perspective of a fire chief working at a regional scale. Each day is a snapshot of the complex and rapidly changing fire environment, including weather, fire location and size, firefighting resource commitments, and public safety and evacuation impacts, that influence regional strategic decisions. The daily chronology follows specific fire activity, detailing the efforts of firefighters suppressing major fires while continuously responding to new outbreaks. It also describes the human and environmental impacts of the fires, including evacuations, structures damaged and destroyed, and damage to critical watershed and natural resources.

The Epilogue describes the continuation of the 2007 fire season into late November, placing it into the fire season as a whole, making the important point that the fire season did not end when the siege was over.

Fire Siege Coordination highlights examples of strategic regional coordination of several management systems and technologies.

The Aftermath summarizes the October fire siege, placing it into the context of both the 2007 fire season, and wildfire history.

The Appendices include summary statistics for the siege, maps and descriptions of the fires by incident, a brief description of evacuations, a list of some after-action reports, copies of key advisories, proclamations, and declarations.

Glossary of Terms, and ***Acknowledgements*** of those responsible for producing the report.

Fire Events and Policy

Years 1923–2006

California has a long history of catastrophic Wildland Urban Interface fires. The following timeline discusses some of those fires and highlights key policies.



1923

Berkeley Fire destroyed 584 structures. Embers falling on wood shingles accelerated the spread of the fire.

1932

The Economy Act was passed by the U.S. Congress, enabling use of military resources in peacetime events. The intent of Congress was to encourage civilian employment prior to committing military resources.

1933

The Griffith Park Fire in Los Angeles started on October 3, 1933. This 47-acre fire killed 29 firefighters and injured 150 others.

1943

The Hansen Creek Fire started on October 2, 1943 on the Cleveland National Forest. Ten marines and one army firefighter are killed. Seventy-three other military personnel are injured on this 13,145-acre fire.

1946

The California State Board of Forestry declared the San Bernardino Mountains around Crestline and Lake Arrowhead as a “Zone of Infestation” for forest insects.

1947

Helicopters are used to assist during wildland fires for the first time in Southern California and the usefulness for moving firefighters around the fire was quickly recognized.

1950

The State of California, all 58 counties and nearly all city governments signed a “Master Mutual Aid Agreement.”

1960

California Public Resource Code 4291 was adopted. This code requires a minimum of 30 feet clearance of flammable vegetation around structures in State Responsibility Areas.



1961

Santa Ana winds fanned a wildland fire in the Bel Air community of Los Angeles County destroying 484 homes, many owned by Hollywood stars. Researchers studying the fire's impacts identified a demand for regulations limiting expansion in the wildlands and improving structure survivability.

1971

After the devastating fire season of 1970, the California fire services were severely criticized for failure to provide leadership in solving the issues of cooperation, command and control, communications and training. In response, state and federal legislative action authorized funding for a five-year research program coordinated by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) called FIREScope (Firefighting Resources of Southern California Organized for Potential Emergencies). The FIREScope research team identified a new fire management system containing the following elements:

- Incident Command System
- Multi-Agency Coordination System
- Information Management System
- Technological Support
- Common Communications

President Nixon created the "National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control." The commission completed a report in May 1973, titled "America Burning." The report covered structural and wildland fires and stated, "Fire is a major national problem."

1972

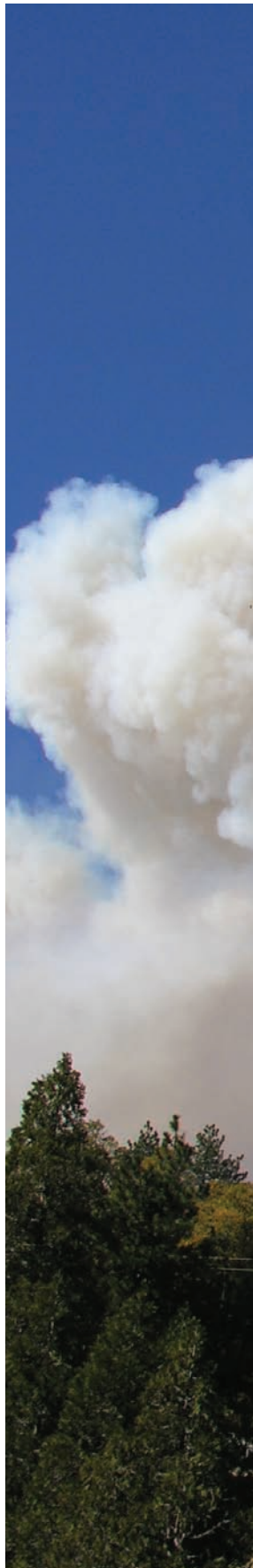
The Southern California Geographic Area Coordination Center (OSCC) was established to provide coordinated multi-agency logistical support and intelligence for wildfires in Southern California. Components of the center include the Intelligence Section, Logistical Support Center, Southern Operations Emergency Command Center and the South Zone Training Unit.

1980

Major Santa Ana wind-driven wildfires occurred in Southern California. At least 325 homes were burned in San Bernardino. The fires prompted Federal, State and Local officials to study the problem of fires coming from the wildland into developed communities. The California legislature established the Vegetation Management Program (VMP) to reduce hazardous fuel conditions.

1987

Pebble Beach Fire in Monterey County destroyed 31 structures. Roof type, window type and vegetation clearance were determining factors of structural survival.



1989

The California Legislature added the FIRESCOPE program to the California Health and Safety Code and authorized OES, in cooperation with CAL FIRE and the State Fire Marshal, to carry out the program.

1990

The Paint Fire in Santa Barbara County killed one resident and destroyed 479 homes and other major buildings. Researchers from the University of California, Berkeley, conducted a study of the causal factors that led to structure damage. The study found that 86% of the buildings survived when they had both 30 feet of vegetation clearance and an ignition resistant roof. Researchers also found that approximately 90% of buildings are completely destroyed once they catch fire.

1991

In October 1991 the Oakland Hills fire burned 1,600 acres, killed 25 people and destroyed 2,900 homes. The fire was almost completely within the city limits of Oakland and Berkeley and was considered an urban conflagration rather than a wildland or urban intermix. Six acres of SRA wildland burned on the perimeter of the fire. Combustible roofing material was implicated in the spread of fire. The high density of structures contributed to extreme radiant heat that spread fire to adjacent structures.

1993

The Laguna Beach fire alone destroyed 441 homes. The October 1993 fire siege in Southern California resulted in four fatalities and 1,200 structures destroyed. After the fire, residents formed the Laguna Coast FIRESAFE Council to help protect the region from future disasters.

The California Legislature passed the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) Act for California. SEMS required state agencies responding to emergencies to use a standardized management system. Incident Command System (ICS) is a component of SEMS.

1994

Thirty-four wildland firefighters were killed while fighting fires in the United States, prompting the five federal wildland fire agencies to review federal fire management policy and programs.

1995

A new federal fire management policy was adopted. The policy concluded:

- The first priority in wildland fire management is the protection of human life.
- The second priority is the protection of natural resources, cultural resources, and property.
- Wildland fire, as a critical natural process, must be reintroduced into the ecosystem.



1996

CAL FIRE and the Office of the State Fire Marshal publish “California’s I Zone,” a nationally recognized in-depth study of past and projected problems of wildland/urban intermix fires.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection developed the “California Fire Plan,” a framework for reducing costs and losses from wildfire. The Fire Plan emphasized that residents need to be involved in planning for fire safety. Fire Safe Councils were established. State and federal funding was made available for civilian-supported fuel reduction projects. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) amended the program to include training for local fire service personnel in firefighting tactics in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

2000

In August 2000, President Clinton directed the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to develop a plan to respond to severe wildland fires in order to reduce their impacts on rural communities, and to assure sufficient firefighting capacity in the future. The Secretaries developed the National Fire Plan (NFP) to increase firefighting capabilities to better protect natural resources, to reduce the threat to communities adjacent to federal lands, and to reduce the cost of fighting large fires.

2001

The U.S. Forest Service began implementing key points of the National Fire Plan by building up fire preparedness and suppression resources beyond historic levels. NFP assigned the highest priority for hazardous fuel reduction treatments to communities at risk, and other important local features, where conditions favor uncharacteristically intense wildfires. California Wildfire Coordinating Group (CWCG) identified communities at risk from wildfire and recorded them in the Federal Register.

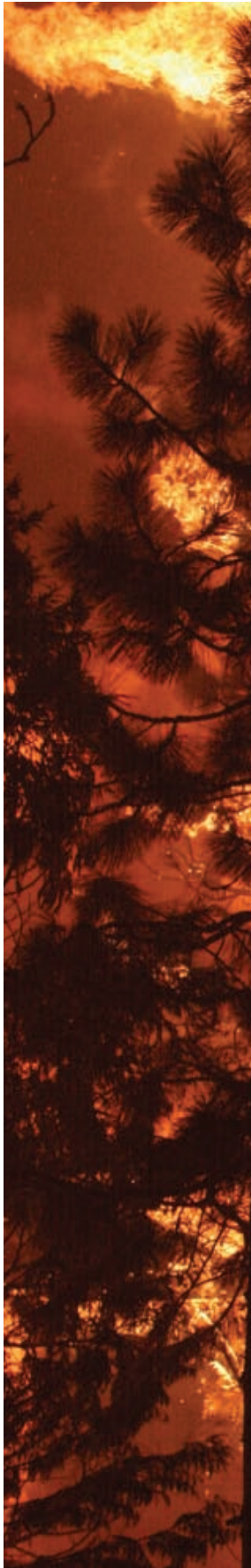
2002

The Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) was organized to address public safety and forest health issues on both public and private land in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. This was one of the most extensive, pre-event planning efforts to ever take place. The three part strategy deals with: 1) emergency preparedness response, 2) fuel reduction around communities and key evacuation routes, and 3) long-term planning and treatments to restore forest health.

In San Diego County, new county fire code required 100-foot clearance around structures, and the Forest Area Safety Taskforce (FAST) was formed.

2003

Local, state and federal agencies focus on identifying priority WUI areas in California to establish better protection strategies that will result in meaningful changes in fire behavior and mitigate the severity of fire effects at a watershed scale. These strategies are consistent with the interagency report: “A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities



and the Environment, Western Governor's 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan and the Memorandum of Understanding for the Development of a Collaborative Fuels Treatment Program."

A multi-agency Joint Information Center (JIC) operating plan was developed in conjunction with the MAST plan to coordinate information release to the community and the media.

All national forests in Southern California began environmental analyses to increase the scale and intensity of vegetation treatments to protect communities from wildland fire.

October 21, 2003 marked the beginning of one of the most devastating periods in Southern California fire history, the Fire Siege of 2003. During the ensuing 15 days, 14 major fires burned more than 750,000 acres and destroyed more than 3,700 homes. Twenty-four people are killed, including one firefighter. Before the last fire was contained, an interagency team was assembled to chronicle the siege resulting in "The Story – California Fire Siege 2003."

In November 2003, Governor Gray Davis and Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger created the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission to review the effort to fight the California's 2003 wildfires, and provide recommendations to limit destruction from future fires.

2004

In April the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission released its final report which included 33 findings and 48 recommendations in five categories: 1) Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers; 2) Training; 3) Interstate/Regional Mutual Aid System; 4) Local Building, Planning and Land Use Regulations/ Brush Clearance and Fuel Modification; and 5) Communications Interoperability, Information Technology, and Public Outreach.

Congress began funding hazardous fuel reduction projects. By 2006 more than \$181 million in federal, state, and local treated more than 96,000 acres in California.

The USFS Pacific Southwest Region developed and implemented the "FIREWATCH" program, utilizing excess military Cobra helicopters to provide state-of-art command and control, infrared capable remote sensing, and downlink capability.

The USFS Pacific Southwest Region developed an aviation training simulator for agency and interagency cooperator pilots and international governmental aviation personnel.

Beginning in 2004, Governor Schwarzenegger issued annual Executive Orders to minimize the impacts of large and damaging wildfires.

The California legislature amended the Public Resources Code and Government Code to require 100 feet of clearance around structures in the State Responsibility Area and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Local Responsibility Areas. The law took effect January 1, 2005.

Many local governments adopt or strengthen ordinances requiring clearance and removal of flammable vegetation and other materials.



CAL FIRE San Diego established an operation plan with the U.S. Navy Helicopter Squadron from North Island allowing the San Diego unit to access assets during major incidents. This included annual training.

2005

CAL FIRE units intensify hazardous brush treatment by cutting and piling brush as part of a shaded fuel break for wildland interface protection.

CAL FIRE begins year-round staffing of department stations.

The Topanga Fire, starting in Los Angeles County and moving into Ventura County, burned 24,175 acres. Of the nearly 1,000 residences threatened, three homes were destroyed and one damaged. Defensible space, fire safe design and ignition resistant construction is credited with reducing the impact of this fire in populated WUI.

2006

The USFS Pacific Southwest Region established an agreement with United States Marine Corps CH-53 Squadron at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego. The agreement outlines the annual pre-fire season training and experience requirements for pilots in command.

NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center and the USFS Pacific Southwest Region agree to test aerospace technologies to aid wildfire imaging and mapping through use of a remotely piloted unmanned aircraft.

Governor Schwarzenegger authorized contracting for a 12,000 gallon DC-10 air tanker during the peak fire season. This air tanker provides a large-load backup capability to supplement CAL FIRE's regular fleet of 23 Grumman S2T air tankers.

On October 26, 2006, five USFS firefighters were entrapped while engaged in structure protection operations on the Esperanza Fire in Riverside County, California. Three of the firefighters were killed at the scene, one died en-route to the hospital and the fifth died on October 31.

Prelude to the Siege 2007

Rainfall totals for the winter of 2006-2007 were far below average, leaving Southern California far drier than normal at the beginning of the 2007 fire season. Conditions were particularly dry at higher elevations, prompting concern for potentially severe fires. Early “green-up” of vegetation at mid-and-higher elevations produced lower than normal peak Live Fuel Moisture (LFM). The annual drying cycle began in May, and by June, moisture levels in live and dead vegetation were declining one-to-two months ahead of normal. LFM’s fell below the critical level of 60% by July. By early September they had fallen to the mid-50-to upper-40 percentiles.

January 11, 2007

An Arctic cold front swept through the state, killing native and ornamental vegetation, creating an above-average volume of dead fuels in the Wildland Urban Interface.

January 29, 2007

The Building Standards Commission adopted the updated California Building and Fire Codes. This new code requires ignition-resistant construction for new building in State Responsibility Area (SRA) and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Local Responsibility Area (LRA).

Insect damage and drought stress combined to produce visible mortality in upland forests. Lower elevation coastal areas trended closer to normal in terms of moisture due to marine influences. Heavy frost in January 2007, caused considerable die-back of vegetation in Ventura, Orange, and San Diego counties.

March 11, 2007

The 241 Fire was reported along State Route 241 near the Wind Ridge Toll Plaza in Orange County. Influenced by high winds, high temperatures, and low humidity, this unusually early fire event burned 2,036 acres in less than three hours. One residence was damaged and two outbuildings were destroyed.

May 8, 2007

The Griffith Park Fire burned 817 acres in Los Angeles City. High power transmission lines were destroyed causing a loss of power to local neighborhoods. Over 400 structures and the Observatory were threatened. Fire caused the evacuation of over 1,000 people from the Los Angeles Zoo, Golf Course, Gene Autry Museum, Zoo Magnet School, and Griffith Park Boys Camp.

May 9, 2007

Governor Schwarzenegger issued an executive order directing CAL FIRE to mobilize additional resources and to work closely with federal, state, and local government agencies to maximize fire fighting and prevention capabilities within California.

May 10, 2007

The Island Fire started on Santa Catalina Island, 26 miles off the coast of Los Angeles. Extreme fire behavior was reported with spotting 1/4 to 1/2 mile in advance of the head of the fire due to low relative humidity, high erratic winds and low fuel moistures. More than 3,800 people were evacuated from the island via the Catalina Island Express to the city of Long Beach. While 4,750 acres were burned, threatening more than 900 structures, only one residence and five outbuildings were destroyed; four outbuildings were damaged.

June 20, 2007

USFS issued a Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory for low fuel moisture and potentially severe fire behavior.

June 24, 2007

An unattended campfire in the area southwest of South Lake Tahoe set off the destructive Angora Fire. Driven by strong erratic winds in heavy timber with a large dead and down component, the burn exhibited extreme fire behavior causing the evacuations of several subdivisions within the first burning period. The fire was contained on July 2 at 3,100 acres, after destroying 242 residences and 67 outbuildings.

July 4, 2007

The Zaca Fire started in the rugged, inaccessible area 15 miles northeast of Buellton, in Santa Barbara County. High temperatures and low relative humidity combined with steep terrain hampered control efforts. Fuel moisture levels were at levels typically seen in late August or September. The Zaca Fire, the second largest fire in California history, was contained at 240,207 acres two months after it started.

July 25, 2007

Following the Angora Fire, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons signed a joint memorandum of understanding which established the California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission. The joint fire commission was charged to conduct a comprehensive overview of forest management in the Lake Tahoe Basin, including effective fuels management, to help prevent fires from starting or escalating.

July 30, 2007

CAL FIRE issued a Fire Behavior Alert discussing the potential for extreme fire behavior this season, based on low fuel moisture conditions.

Summer weather was seasonably dry with very little precipitation. By October, Southern California remained dry, with much of San Diego and desert regions near the border with Baja California extremely dry. All these factors increased the potential for severe fires in the fall.

Meteorological Events Timeline and Preparations

October 15–20, 2007

Predictive Services at the Southern California Geographic Area Coordination Center (OSCC) continued to forecast an extreme fire weather event of strong, hot, dry, winds. Regional Chief Officers, representing CAL FIRE, USFS, and OES at OSCC, monitored developing conditions and initiated actions within their specific agencies to preposition wildland firefighting resources.

Monday October 15–Wednesday, 17

Daily and 7-day forecasts discussed strong offshore flow conditions predicted for Sunday, October 21, and Monday, October 22.

Thursday, October 18

“High Risk Days” were added to the 7-day forecast for Sunday, October 21, and Monday, October 22, highlighting the prediction that this anticipated offshore event would be strong and widespread, and accompanied by very warm and very dry conditions.

Predictive Services and the National Weather Service participated in daily conference calls to coordinate weather information. Predictive Services invited local fire agencies to join in wildland fire agency briefings regarding the upcoming Santa Ana wind event.

Regional Chief Officers issued a regional special staffing pattern to go into effect Sunday, October 21:

- Staff all CAL FIRE fire crews in the Southern California Conservation Camps
- Staff all CAL FIRE bulldozers in Southern California 24 hours per day
- Staff three CAL FIRE fire crews per camp in Central California CAL FIRE Conservation Camps
- Pre-position a CAL FIRE Strike Team of Type 3 engines (five engines and a leader) from Central California into Ventura and Los Angeles Counties on October 20
- Request that Riverside County Fire Department staff five reserve Type 3 Engines

Friday, October 19

Predictive Services forecasters added Tuesday, October 23, as a High Risk Day in the 7-day report. Daily conference calls with the National Weather Service and fire agencies continued.

Regional Chief Officers placed the following requests for Sunday, October 21:

Orange County Fire Authority to staff one additional Engine Strike Team, one additional bulldozer and one additional fire crew.

- Santa Barbara County Fire Department to staff one additional task force consisting of three engines and one water tender.
- Increase Chief Officer and Emergency Command Center staffing in the Southern California Units, and place two CAL FIRE Incident Command Teams on standby.
- Reposition three Northern Region air tankers to Paso Robles, Hemet, and Ramona air attack bases.
- Activate the DC-10 Supertanker.

- Authorize extended staffing for federal initial attack engine modules (increasing initial attack capabilities by 30%) and federal Hotshot Crews.
- Authorize the four Southern California Forests to extend staffing to 24 hours per day.

Saturday, October 20

Predictive Services continued to forecast a strong widespread offshore wind event, Sunday through Tuesday. Saturday started with an onshore wind, but by late that night and into early Sunday morning, the winds in Southern California gradually shifted, blowing from the north and northeast.

Regional Fire Officers pre-positioned federal firefighting resources including:

Four Type 1 Incident Management Teams

- Five Type 2 Incident Management Teams
- Seven heavy helitankers
- Seven Type 2 helicopters
- Eight heavy air tankers
- Local federal fire officers on the Cleveland National Forest implemented 24 hour staffing.
- Local federal fire officers on the remaining three southern forests, San Bernardino, Los Padres, and Angeles National Forests implemented 24-hour staffing effective the following day.

Sunday, October 21

The anticipated Santa Ana wind event was under way.



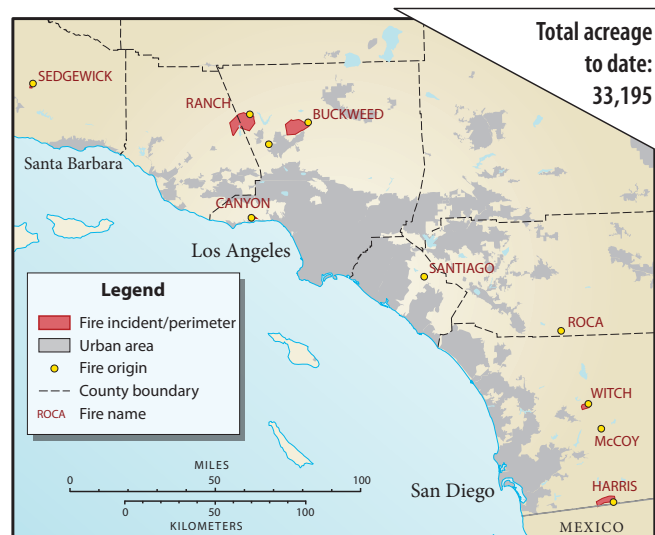
Energy Release Component

The Energy Release Component (ERC) is an NFDRS (National Fire Danger Rating System) index relating to how hot a fire can burn. It is directly related to the 24-hour, potential worst case, total available energy (BTUs) per unit area (in square feet) within the flaming front at the head of a fire.

The ERC can serve as a good characterization of fire season as it tracks seasonal fire danger trends. The ERC is a function of the fuel model and live and dead fuel moistures. Fuel loading, woody fuel moistures, and larger fuel moistures all have an influence on the ERC, while the lighter fuels have less influence and wind speed has none. ERC has low variability, and is the best fire danger component for indicating the effects of intermediate to long-term drying on fire behavior (if it is a significant factor) although it is not intended for use as a drought index. Throughout most of the Southern region, ERCs had hovered around the 90 to 100% level from July onward. By late September all but one of the seven Predictive Service Areas (PSAs) were displaying ERCs at 95 to 100%—at or above the recorded maximum values. Fuels and slope-driven fires were burning with remarkable intensity and moved upslope as if they were driven by the wind.

The Fires: Day 1

■ Sunday, October 21, 2007



Predictive Services Morning Report:

A strong ridge of high pressure will build into California from the Pacific Ocean bringing a warming trend and very low humidity to the region through Wednesday. There will be widespread strong and gusty north to east winds over Southern California through Wednesday morning. Winds will be 20-to-40 miles per hour with much higher gusts over the mountains and below the canyons and passes of Southern California.

Today's Events:

The anticipated Santa Ana wind event is under way. Southern California is experiencing widespread sustained wind speeds of 20-to-40 miles per hour, with gusts of 70-to-80 miles per hour in more wind-prone areas. These winds persist throughout the day, diminishing somewhat by late afternoon. Humidity values tumble into the single digits and teens.

The **Ranch Fire** is reported Saturday night, October 20, at 9:42 p.m., along Interstate-5 six miles north of Castaic in Los Angeles County. The fire is driven by 25-to-30 mile per hour winds with gusts up to 40 miles per hour. Extreme wind conditions and heavy brush contribute to erratic fire behavior creating control problems. Spotting is noted 1/2 mile ahead of the fire. The communities of Fillmore, Piru, Ventura, and Ojai are threatened. The Condor Reserve and Sespe Wilderness areas are identified for protection. Reconnaissance

■ Daily Snapshot

Incident Name	MACS Priority* a.m. / p.m.	Crews	Engines	Dozers	Overhead	Acres**	Contained %
Buckweed	na / 5	10	26	2	65	10,000	0
Canyon	na / 1	14	247	2	92	2,200	10
Harris	na / 2	6	37	2	13	2,000	0
Ranch	na / 4	15	56	5	22	12,000	10
Roca	na / 8	7	37	3	14	250	40
Santiago	na / 9	2	69	2	29	4,000	5
Sedgewick	na / 7	0	0	0	0	710	50
Witch	na / 3	12	20	1	8	2,000	1
Contained Fires***		10	39	3	0	35	100
Totals		76	531	20	243	33,195	

* Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) priority setting for resource allocation is based on the following criteria: Life Threatening Situations, Real Property Threatened, High Damage Potential, Incident Complexity, Potential for Timely Containment.

** Figures for acreage are cumulative for the incident throughout the siege.

*** When a fire is 100% contained, the fire name is deleted but the acreage burned and additional resources (used in mop-up) is added to the "Contained Fires" section.

Data used above was extracted from the Incident Status Summary (ICS-209).

On October 21, 2007, resources commence battling eight fires starting within hours of one another. Dry winds gusting up to 70 miles an hour in some areas, threaten thousands of structures. Of over 2,000 structures threatened, destroyed structures total 53 on day one of the siege.



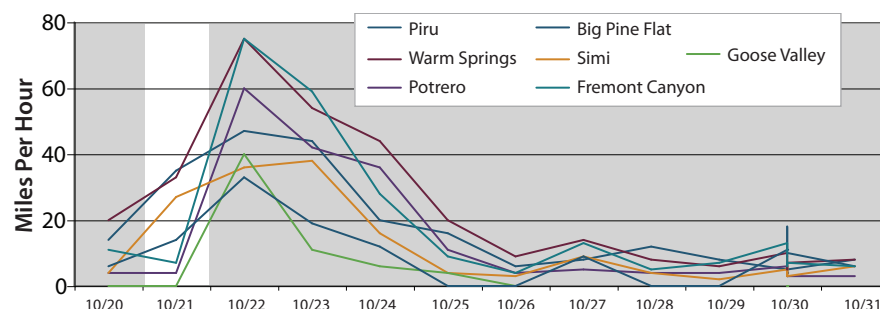
flights by lead plane pilots determine winds and turbulence are too great for air tanker operations, so only helicopter operations are planned. By afternoon, the Ranch Fire reports “extremely hellacious & erratic fire behavior,” driving the number of acres burned to 6,000, with 300 structures threatened.

The **Canyon Fire** is reported at 4:55 a.m. in Malibu Canyon, Los Angeles County. The fire threatens 300 structures and evacuations in progress create severe traffic congestion along the narrow, winding roads. The Malibu coastline is without power. Fifty mile-per-hour winds drive the fire through dense six-foot tall chaparral. Both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters are used all day with great effect. Two of the heavy air tankers do not fly because lead planes are acommitted to other fires.

Due to the unusually dry fuel condition, spotting occurs 1/2 mile ahead of the main fire. With a rapid rate of spread of two miles per hour, the fire has the potential to grow to 3,000 acres within 24 hours. The fire is spreading in a south-southwest direction into homes, businesses and historical sites including Serra Retreat House and Pepperdine University.

■ Peak Wind Speeds: October 20–31, 2007

October 21 highlighted



■ Governor Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency in seven counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura, due to the damages caused by wildfires and continued fire threat.

California Fire Siege October 21, 2007

- The Governor's Office Of Emergency Services requested four California National Guard helicopters to support firefighting efforts.

At 6:00 a.m., slightly over an hour after the Canyon Fire is reported, the **Sedgewick Fire** begins, possibly started by arcing power lines igniting dry grass. Burning near Sedgewick Ranch and Figueroa Mountain In Santa Barbara County, the fire spreads quickly. The Woodstock area receives an evacuation warning.

The initial aircraft order of four air tankers and four helicopters is increased by four additional heavy air tankers, a lead plane and one additional helicopter. By day's end, the fire is held with retardant at approximately 710 acres.

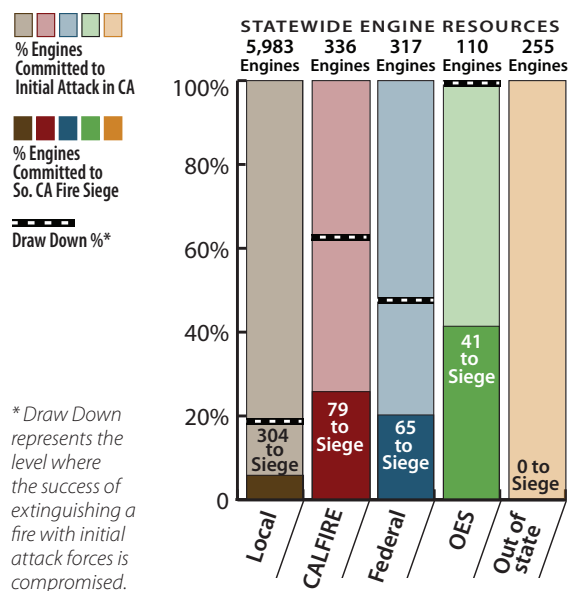
Farther to the south the **Harris Fire** is reported at 9:30 a.m. along Highway 94 near the U.S.-Mexico border town of Potrero in San Diego County. Strong winds hamper suppression efforts as the fire spreads rapidly in dry brush and grass. A second small fire in the area diverts resources briefly. By 11:00 a.m., the fire is burning around the CAL FIRE Potrero fire station with one engine on scene protecting the structure. Approximately 250 residences are threatened in the community of Potrero. By day's end, there are reports of possible fatalities and numerous injuries, including the burnover of an engine. Air tankers are held out of the area and a helicopter is sent to search for the injured personnel. In spite of high winds and poor visibility, the injured parties are found and transported to the Potrero Forest Fire Station. Two other medivacs use five Emergency Medical System (EMS) helicopters to transport ten public burn cases to the University of California San Diego Burn Center.

Air tanker operations are unable to continue due to the deteriorating conditions caused by blowing smoke and dust, turbulence and 70 mile per hour winds. Four Type 2 helicopters and two helitankers work the fire until cutoff. Multiple structures are destroyed. The communities of Dulzura and Tecate are threatened as well as the transmission power line serving a large portion of San Diego County. In a little more than 12 hours, the Harris Fire burns more than 16,000 acres.

Just 40 miles north of the Harris Fire, the **Witch Fire** is reported at 12:35 p.m. in the rural area of Witch Creek, east of Ramona in San Diego County. Aircraft diverted from the Harris Fire take immediate action due to imminent structure threat and rapid rate of spread toward Ramona. Air tanker drops are ineffective due to the winds, and air attack is cancelled.

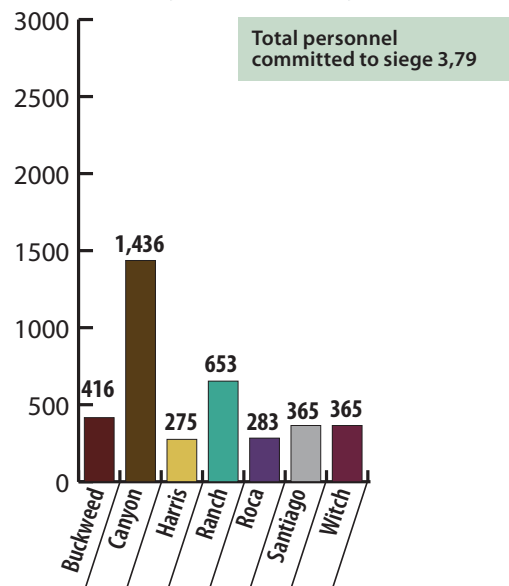
Resources Committed:

Engines, October 21, 2007



Resources Committed:

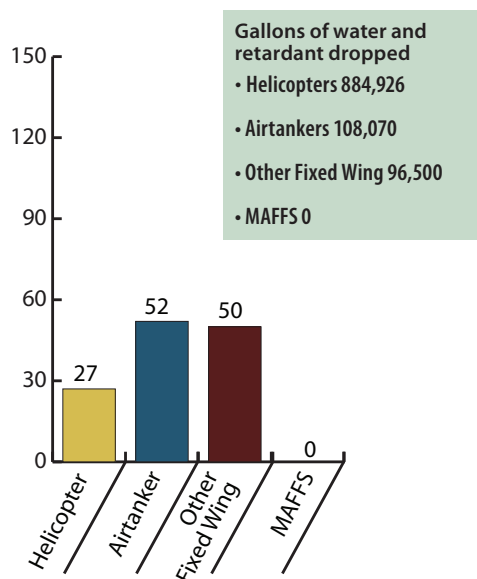
Personnel, October 21, 2007



The fire spreads rapidly toward the communities of Northeast Ramona, San Diego Country Estates, and Barona Mesa in roughly the same area that was burned by the Cedar Fire in 2003. Over 175 structures are threatened. With multiple fires already burning in Southern California, competition for resources is anticipated. By evening, the western edge of the fire jumps Interstate-15 and establishes itself in the river drainage. An estimated 10,000 acres burn. Multiple structures are destroyed in Rancho Bernardo and Poway. The communities of Ramona, San Diego Country Estates, Barona Mesa, Barona Indian Reservation, Poway and San Pasqual are all threatened.

Just before 1:00 p.m., less than 30 minutes after the inception of the Witch Fire, the **Buckweed Fire** is reported along Mint Canyon Road directly east of Six Flags Magic Mountain in Los Angeles County. Within hours, the wind-driven fire threatens 200 residences and evacuations are initiated. By evening the fire consumes an estimated 10,000 acres, threatening the communities of Santa Clarita, Castaic, Leona Valley,

Resources Committed: Aircraft, Flight Hours, October 21, 2007



Remote Automated Weather Stations

Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) are solar-powered weather stations strategically positioned throughout the United States, often in isolated areas. These units collect, store, and transmit important weather information on an hourly basis. RAWS sensors monitor:

- Wind speed and direction
- Wind gusts
- Precipitation
- Air temperature
- Solar radiation
- Relative humidity
- Fuel moisture
- Soil moisture and temperature

In addition to fire weather, data collected from the more than 1,800 stations are used in numerous applications, including climatology, resource management, flood warning, noxious weed control, all-risk management, and air quality management.

The map below shows the location of the seven RAWS stations used for wind gusts data in developing the daily peak wind speed graph for this report.



Green Valley, Acton, Agua Dulce and Mint Canyon. There are unconfirmed reports of several civilian burn victims and two destroyed residences. More than 3,800 structures are threatened. Large-scale evacuations are ordered for Bouquet Canyon and San Francisquito areas. Additional threats to infrastructure include water distribution systems along Interstate-5, Bouquet Canyon and San Francisquito Canyon, as well as power lines in Bouquet Canyon and along the State Route-14 corridor. The smoke column has risen to approximately 15,000 feet and the winds are gusting on the surface up to 70 miles-per-hour.

Two scoopers (air tankers that “scoop” water from water bodies while in flight) pick up water from Castaic Reservoir. Even though their water drops are made from extremely low altitudes, the wind dissipates the water to the extent that the drops are deemed ineffective. The extreme fire behavior is exceeding on-scene firefighting resource capabilities.

At 3:52 p.m. a strike team of CAL FIRE Type 3 engines on the way to fires in San Diego reports the **Roca Fire**, east of Temecula in Riverside County. High winds drive the fire down canyon at dangerous rates of spread toward the Cleveland National Forest, threatening the Agua Tibea Wilderness and the Palomar Mountain State Park.

■ A FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) was authorized for the Canyon Fire in Los Angeles County.

The Roca Fire has the potential to burn up to 10,000 acres. The Jojoba Hills Resort and Rancho California RV Park receive mandatory evacuation orders for 700 residences. An evacuation center is set up at Temecula Community Center.

Seven major fires, exacerbated by relentless winds, are now blazing in Southern California. With resources already stretched, the **Santiago Fire** begins shortly before 6:00 p.m. in the foothills north of Irvine and east of the city of Orange in Orange County. This fire reportedly started in two separate spots, along Santiago Canyon Road, and west of Silverado Canyon Road. Wind speeds are reported at 50 miles-per-hour causing large runs and major spotting. More than 2,000 residences and 50 commercial properties are threatened near Irvine. As the eighth major fire start in 20 hours, suppression efforts on the Santiago Fire are greatly limited by a lack of additional available resources.

“The flames are about 1,000 yards from the prison.”

Jim Amormino
Orange County Sheriffs' Department Spokesman



While fire commanders had their hands full with the increasing number of fires and the stretching of resources, local law enforcement confronted unprecedented evacuation issues.

The James A. Musick Branch Jail in Irvine stood in the path of the Santiago fire. With the smoke growing thicker and the flames within 1,000 yards of the buildings, law enforcement was able to empty the prison and move all prisoners with no injury or incident.

Other facilities cooperated by making temporary space for the displaced prisoners. Within 36 hours the jail was repopulated with inmates.

Within a matter of days, 17 lives would be lost and up to 900,000 residents would be displaced. However, thousands of lives, homes and commercial properties were saved in spite of Santa Ana winds and drought conditions.



DAN ELLIOT

The ninth large fire of the day for Southern California, the **McCoy Fire**, is reported at 11:37 p.m. in the Boulder Creek area of San Diego County. The McCoy Fire burns in the area near the 2003 Cedar Fire in light fuels of grass and chamise regrowth. High winds drive the fire in all directions. No resources are available for initial attack.

Regional Chief Officers at OSCC respond to the escalating fire situation by initiating a series of strategic resource movements. They order all CAL FIRE fireline personnel in the Sierra Units and Northern Region to remain on duty. They also move three federal Incident Management Teams to Southern California and activate the Master Mutual Aid System to request OES and local government resources from Northern California. Northern Region Chiefs begin moving engines, crews, bulldozers, and Incident Command Teams to Southern California.

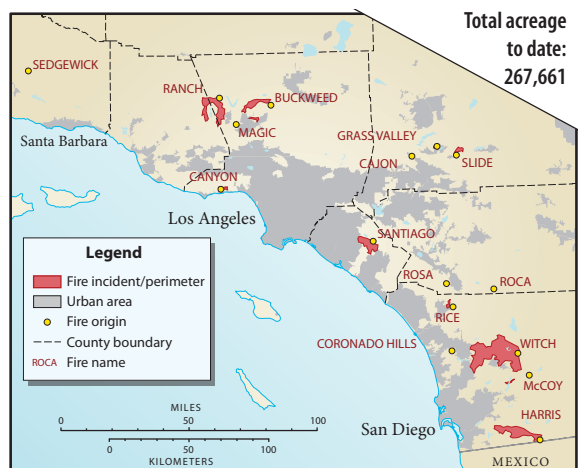
Regional Chief Officers also initiate movement of aerial resources to Southern California by activating California National Guard and active duty military helicopters, the Martin Mars air tanker from Canada, and all available “off contract” CAL FIRE air tankers. They also request two Oregon State DC-7 air tankers, reposition three Northern California helicopters, and bring two out-of-state federal heavy air tankers into the area.

■ Southern California Regional
Emergency Operations Center
activated.

By day's end on October 21, fire managers are administering multiple incidents with extreme wind-driven fire behavior and limited resource availability. The Santa Ana winds are expected to continue through the night. The Southern California Wildland Fire Siege of 2007 is well under way.

The Fires: Day 2

Monday, October 22, 2007



Predictive Services Morning Report:

With the strong ridge of high pressure over California temperatures will be 10 to 20 degrees above normal. There will be widespread strong and gusty north-to-east winds over Southern California through Wednesday morning. Winds will be 20-to-40 miles per hour, with much higher gusts over the mountains and below the canyons and passes of Southern California through Tuesday morning.

Today's Events:

Southern California awakens to the news that the Fire Siege of 2007 has grown. By dawn, four new large fires have been reported: Coronado Hills, Guajito, Rice, and Grass Valley.

The **Coronado Hills Fire** is reported at 1:46 a.m., south of California State University, San Marcos, in San Diego County. The fire is racing through dense chaparral fanned by winds up to 40 miles per hour. Multiple structures are destroyed and evacuations begin. Fire threatens the communities of Discovery Hills, Coronado Hills, San Elijo Hills, Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove.

12 American Red Cross (ARC) shelters open.

Daily Snapshot

Incident Name	MACS Priority* a.m. / p.m.	Crews	Engines	Dozers	Overhead	Acres**	Contained %
Buckweed	1 / 4	21	129	9	72	35,547	20
Canyon	4 / 5	24	210	6	94	3,800	8
Coronado Hills	- / -	0	23	0	3	300	0
Grass Valley	- / 1	5	56	0	119	75	0
Harris	3 / 3	6	37	2	13	22,000	50
Magic	- / -	4	60	1	5	1,200	0
McCoy	- / -	0	5	0	3	300	50
Ranch	5 / 6	20	66	7	89	41,000	10
Rice	- / 8	0	5	0	5	1,500	0
Rosa	- / -	7	34	4	12	350	70
Santiago	6 / 7	2	94	2	37	15,225	30
Slide	- / 1	4	20	0	0	150	0
Witch	2 / 2	9	87	10	31	145,000	0
Contained Fires***		41	83	16	64	1,214	100
Totals		143	909	57	547	267,661	

* Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) priority setting for resource allocation is based on the following criteria: Life Threatening Situations, Real Property Threatened, High Damage Potential, Incident Complexity, Potential for Timely Containment.

** Figures for acreage are cumulative for the incident throughout the siege.

*** When a fire is 100% contained, the fire name is deleted but the acreage burned and additional resources (used in mop-up) is added to the "Contained Fires" section.

Data used above was extracted from the Incident Status Summary (ICS-209).

High winds prevented the water drop above from ever reaching it's target.



WES SCHULTZ

At approximately 4:00 am, a new fire is reported south of the San Diego Wild Animal Park, burning in the San Pasqual River drainage. Within 30 minutes this new fire, the **Guajito Fire**, burns west to Interstate- 15. The California Highway Patrol closes this major highway in both directions, disrupting the evacuation of communities threatened by the Witch Fire. The Guajito Fire burns under a bridge along Interstate-15 racing toward Rancho Bernardo. Later in the day, the Guajito and the Witch Fires merge.

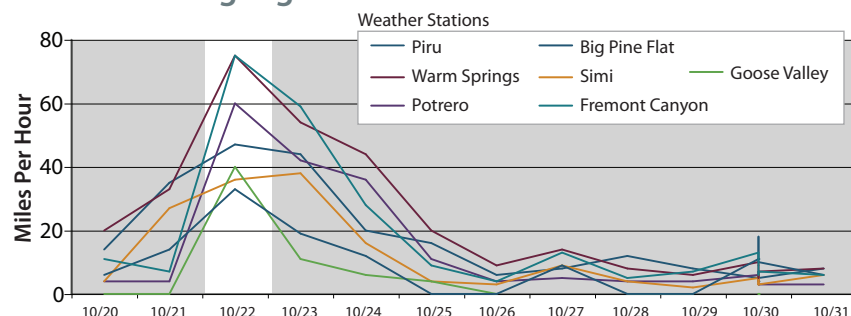
The **Rice Fire** is reported at 4:16 a.m. in Rice Canyon, north San Diego County burning in grass and brush with rapid fire spread and spotting. One structure burns and 250 structures are threatened. No mandatory evacuations are in place.

At 5:08 am, less than one hour after the Rice Fire is reported, the **Grass Valley Fire**, also known as the **Valley Fire**, is reported. This new fire is in the Deer Lodge Park area near Lake Arrowhead in San Bernardino County. Burning in timber with heavy winds, the fire poses an immediate threat to 100 structures. Evacuations commence immediately for Deer Lodge Park. As the fire progresses, it poses a threat

U.S. Department of Defense announced that six Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems (MAFFS) equipped aircraft have been directed to assist in Southern California.

Peak Wind Speeds: October 20–31, 2007

October 22 highlighted



President Bush issued a declaration of emergency in California for the seven counties struck by wildfires (direct federal assistance, debris removal, emergency protective measures).

California Fire Siege October 22, 2007

to thousands of residents in and around the town of Lake Arrowhead as well as endangering a nearby power plant. Fierce competition for resources hinders suppression efforts and all local resources are depleted. Due to winds over 30 miles per hour, aircraft are unable to effectively drop retardant.

- The Governor directed California National Guard to make 1,500 guardsmen available at the direction of the OES to support the firefighting efforts in Southern California.

By 8:00 am the Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group convenes at the Southern California Geographic Area Coordination Center (OSCC) to prioritize the incidents based on the most current information and coordinate the allocation of firefighting resources supporting the siege as a whole. In addition to the MAC Group member agency representatives, a representative for the San Diego County fires is included.

Morning reports from ongoing fires describe erratic fire behavior associated with extreme weather conditions. Thousands of homes are threatened and massive evacuations are underway.

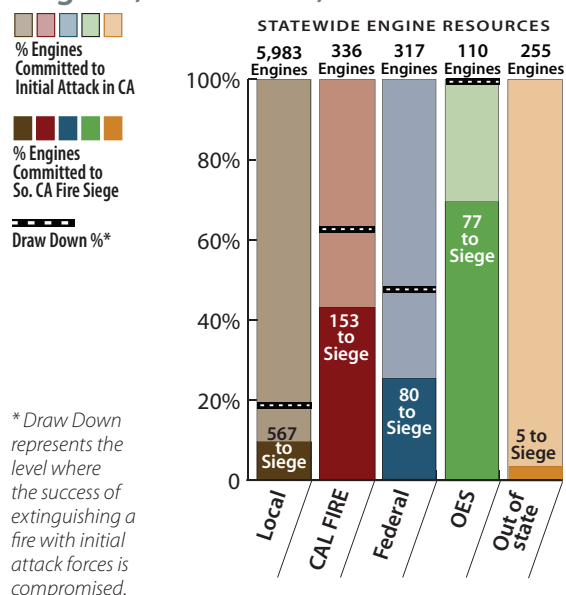
Roaring through chaparral, mixed brush and grass, the **Buckweed Fire** continues to exceed the capabilities of on-scene resources. Helicopters and two CL215s (Canadian water scooping air tankers) are working effectively. On the eastern flank, no structures are in danger. There are insufficient ground forces to assign fire fighters to the eastern portion of the fire. Without the support of ground forces, and with strong winds blowing, no air drops occur on the eastern side of the Buckweed.

The winds increase through the canyons. Officials receive unconfirmed reports of three civilian burn victims. The Texas Canyon USFS Ranger Station district office, the Bouquet Canyon/Vasquez Canyon Bridge and the Sierra Highway/Vasquez Canyon Bridge are destroyed. Major transmission lines are threatened as the fire burns toward the Magic Mountain theme park. By noon, more than 50,000 structures are threatened, and 25 have been destroyed. An estimated 15,000 residents are under mandatory evacuation.

The **Witch Fire** continues to threaten many communities in the San Diego area and jumps Interstate-15 as it heads west. The fire is well established in the river drainage burning downhill, down canyon. Driven by 31 miles-per-hour winds, with gusts up to 47 miles-per-hour, spotting occurs up to 1/2 mile. The area between the Paradise Fire (2003) and the Cedar Fire (2003) has not burned for at least 25 years. Fire reaches the community of Ramona and evacuations take place. Highway 78 from Ramona to Santa Ysabel, Wildcat Canyon and Highway 67 from Poway Road to Ramona are closed. The fire continues to move west and

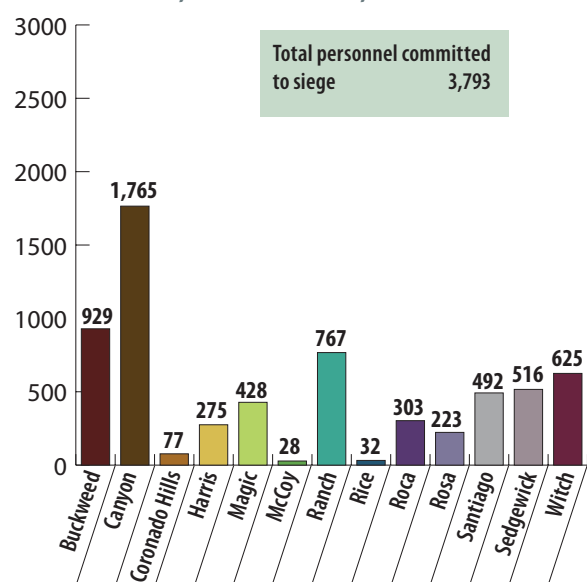
Resources Committed:

Engines, October 22, 2007



Resources Committed:

Personnel, October 22, 2007



southwest. Widespread spotting and numerous new starts occur in the surrounding areas due to electrical wires falling as a result of the high winds.

High winds in excess of 40 miles per hour ground aircraft and hamper suppression efforts on the **Harris Fire**. Covering over 20,000 acres, the fire burns in the areas of Deer Horn, Mother Grundy, and east of Otay Lake. San Diego County Sheriff officers and U.S. Border Patrol agents are busy handling immigrant issues including the rescue, medical treatment, and identification of individuals. There are reports of an additional fatality. Multiple structures are destroyed in Dulzura. Mandatory evacuations are ordered for Coyote Holler, Round Potrero and Deer Horn Valley. An evacuation center is established at Steel Canyon High School. Several roads are closed. Winds reaching 70 miles per hour with moderate to severe turbulence are reported. Ground visibility is extremely poor due to blowing dust and ash. Due to the poor visibility, fixed-wing aircraft are unable to fly safely until afternoon. The San Diego Gas & Electric southwest major transmission line remains inoperable. All firefighting efforts are focused on protecting life and property.

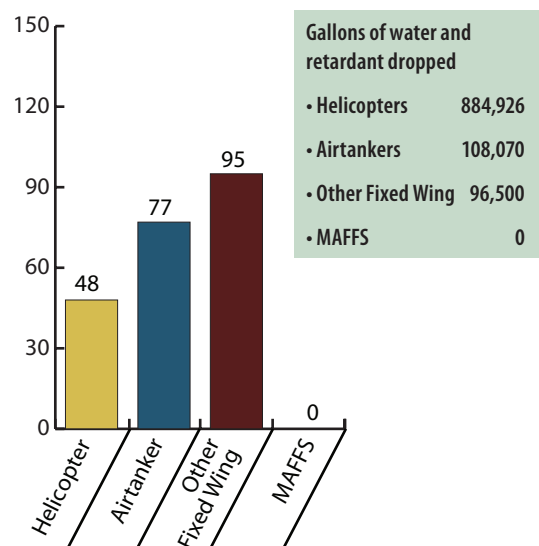
■ Governor Schwarzenegger directed inmate firefighters and staff from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to deploy firefighting resources to work with state and local firefighters.

Burning through heavy brush, grass, and oak, the **Ranch Fire** remains very active overnight with large wind-driven runs, long distance spotting, fire whirls, and flame sheeting. The fire spreads further west and south with the east and north flanks holding. Highway 126 is closed. Evacuations continue in the Hasley Canyon, Oak Springs, Val Verde and Piru areas. Firefighters successfully contain a new fire in Hopper Canyon.

At 8:02 a.m., another fire, the **Slide Fire**, is reported in the San Bernardino Mountains between Green Valley Lake and Running Springs. Located in a dense residential area with bug-killed timber, the fire burns at an extreme rate of spread with numerous structures threatened. Mandatory evacuations are ordered in Green Valley Lake and Arrow Bear. The fire also poses a significant threat to timber, watershed and recreation areas.

With resources already stretched thin, the **Cajon Fire** is reported at 11:38 a.m. along Interstate-15 in Devore, also in San Bernardino County. The combination of dense chaparral and high winds present control problems, causing active fire behavior including long-range spotting and high rates of spread. The fire threatens Interstate-15, a natural gas line, railway, and power lines.

■ Resources Committed: Aircraft, Flight Hours, October 22, 2007



At 2:17 p.m., the **Magic Fire** is reported west of Interstate-5 near the Old Road and Magic Mountain Parkway. Driven by Santa Ana winds, the fire shows critical fire spread with numerous spot fires. The potential for large-scale loss is great as the fire moves through heavy fuels impacted by severe weather conditions. The new fire start causes some electrical outages in the area. Numerous residential properties are at risk. Two water-scooping air tankers and several county helicopters work the area along with federal air attack. Four air tankers are used until the winds and intensity of the fire limit the retardant's effectiveness. The incident commander's ability to control this fire in the early stages is limited by the fierce competition for available resources.

By evening, a decision is made to manage the **Grass Valley** and **Slide** fires as one incident. This incident is designated the number one priority by the Southern California Geographic Area Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group. Burning

at extreme rates of spread in high density residential property intermixed with standing dead timber, the fire very quickly destroys multiple structures in Lake Arrowhead and Grass Valley. Thousands of structures are threatened and evacuations begin in Arrow Bear, Lake Arrowhead, Running Springs, Green Valley Lake, and Twin Peaks. Between the two fires, over 200 homes are damaged or destroyed. All roads to mountain communities are closed. Competition for firefighting resources continues to pose major

problems. Aircraft are not able to drop retardant on either fire due to the wind and turbulence. The two Type 1 helicopters ordered can't fly due to strong winds and turbulence. Anticipating a break in the winds, orders are placed for two additional Type 1 helicopters, a DC 10 heavy air tanker, and any other available heavy air tankers.

The second and third priority fires, the Witch and Harris fires, are the two largest fires burning in San Diego County.

The **Witch Fire** is reported at over 145,000 acres. No containment progress has been made due to rapid fire spread and limited on-scene resources. The fire exhibits extreme behavior with long-range spotting in excess of 1/4 mile and rapid spread rates over 2.5 miles-per-hour eventually merging with the **Guajito Fire**. The high winds with high temperature and low humidity are expected to continue through Wednesday, October 24. The fire continues to move west and southwest, threatening the communities of San Diego, Poway, Ramona, Escondido, Lakeside, Valley Center, San Marcos and Rancho Santa Fe. The fire burned with exceptional speed, driven by blowing embers in the strong winds. Islands of unburned fuel are left behind, creating an additional hazard of reburn when the winds shift. Mandatory evacuations are placed for Scripps Ranch, Rancho Bernardo, Poway, Valley Center, San Marcos and Rancho Santa Fe. By the end of the day, an estimated 500 homes have been destroyed and 250 damaged; 100 commercial buildings have been destroyed and 75 damaged. More than 5,000 homes and 1,500 commercial buildings remain threatened. There are reports of civilian injuries.

■ FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAGs) authorized for the Santiago Fire, the Ranch Fire, the Witch Fire, the Buckweed Fire, the Harris Fire, the Grass Valley Fire and the Rice Fire.



■ A border crossing is engulfed by flames.

The **Harris Fire** reports extreme fire behavior due to weather conditions. Driven by 40-to-60 mile per hour winds, the fire spreads west toward Otay Lake, and north to Lyon's Valley. Smoke and weather conditions make air operations difficult. More than 600 structures and multiple heritage sites are threatened. Evacuations progress in the threatened communities of Potrero, Barrett Junction, Barrett Lake, Lawson Valley, Jamul, Lyons Valley and Otay Mountain. Some civilians

refuse to evacuate and create rescue problems. Three additional civilians suffer burns and are transported to local hospitals. One civilian has died and 17 have been injured by this fire. The San Diego Gas & Electric Southwest major transmission line remains shut down. Most resource orders remain unfilled due

to competing incidents in the area. All firefighting efforts focus on protection of life and property, and on firefighter safety. Incident base is moved to Gillespie Field.

Extreme fire behavior is also reported from the Buckweed Fire. Influenced by strong north-northeast Santa Ana wind conditions and critically low fuel moisture levels, the fire is spotting up to 1/2 mile ahead of the main fire, and burning toward Magic Mountain theme park. On the positive side, the west flank is holding in San Francisquito Canyon. Progress is also made on the north end. The south flank is slowed significantly as it runs into a subdivision with a greenbelt established around it. At 5:45 p.m., evacuations are lifted and residents are allowed to return.

■ Governor Schwarzenegger and San Diego City Mayor Sanders visit the evacuation center at Qualcomm Stadium.

The **Ranch Fire** reports control problems due to extreme wind conditions and steep terrain. Threats to infrastructure, including Interstate-5 and state highways 126, 150 and 33, multiple power line and pipelines systems, create additional challenges. Strong winds and low relative humidity cause intense fire behavior with rapid wind-driven runs and short-range spotting. Fine and patchy fuels within the Piru Fire

(2003) area limit the fire spread to the southwest. The fire is moving further west, and burns through Hasley Canyon. By afternoon, Highway 126 is closed. The Ranch, Buckweed, and Magic fires are expected to burn together within 24 to 48 hours.

With strong Santa Ana conditions, the **Canyon Fire** spots 1/2-mile ahead of the fire front and flame heights reach 30 to 50 feet. Two-miles-per-hour rates of spread are observed. Mandatory evacuations and voluntary evacuations are implemented in many areas. Numerous road closures take effect. Competition for fire resources and ongoing Santa Ana winds continue to impact operations. Offshore winds in the area make helicopter and air tanker drops ineffective with excessive amounts of drift. Severe downdrafts are reported by the air tankers' lead plane pilots. The terrain is steep and the drops have little effect.

Homes in numerous communities along the Santa Ana Canyon corridor continue to be threatened by the **Santiago Fire**. Continued Red Flag weather conditions produce extreme and erratic fire behavior with high rates of spread and long-range spotting. Precautionary shelter deployments occur in the unincorporated area of Silverado as the fire makes several runs into the WUI. Crews undertake aggressive structure protection within the communities of Lake Forest and Foothill Ranch, with evacuations under way in Foothill Ranch. Open resource orders due to the extraordinary regional fire activity hampers containment efforts. Air tankers are unable to fly due to dangerous wind conditions.

Driven by 40-to-50 mile per hour winds, the **Rice Fire** crosses Interstate-15 and Highway 395, posing an imminent threat to 500 to 1,000 homes in the Fallbrook area within the next 24 hours. Approximately 100 homes have already been destroyed. The entire town of Fallbrook, with a population of 29,000, is evacuated. Five air tankers help support structure protection efforts of ground forces on both sides of Interstate-15. Firefighting efforts are hampered by extreme fire behavior.

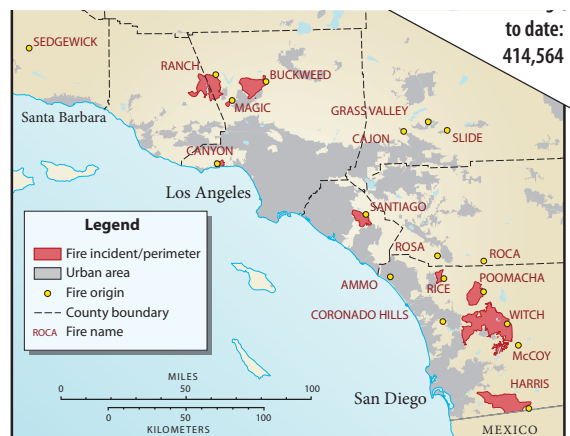
■ FMAG requested for the Rosa Fire in Riverside County.

In spite of the winds, good progress is made on three of the fires. The **Sedgewick Fire** reaches 100% containment at 710 acres, and the Coronado Hills Fire is 100% contained at 250 acres. It is recognized that immediate engagement and aggressive initial attack contributed to the Roca Fire being contained at only 270 acres.

Progress toward containment on a few of the fires gives overworked firefighters on other incidents hope that more resources will become available. However another fire, the **Rosa Fire**, is reported at 11:10 p.m. near Temecula in Riverside, County. Suppression efforts are hampered by strong winds, difficult access, and poor water supply in the area. More than 100 structures are threatened and evacuations are ordered for Deluz, Tenaja, Temecula and the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve.

The Fires: Day 3

Tuesday, October 23, 2007



- President Bush signs Emergency Declaration FEMA-3279-EM-CA for seven California counties.

Predictive Services Morning Report:

Gusty Santa Ana winds will continue over portions of the region with sustained speeds between 15 and 25 miles per hour, gusting from the 30s-to-mid-40s. Gusty conditions will continue to be problematic, especially over San Diego County.

Today's Events:

With Santa Ana wind conditions expected to continue, existing firefighting resources are not sufficient to fill all resource requests from the siege fires. Southern California has eleven fires burning in seven counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura.

Day three of the siege begins with reports of a new start; the **Poomacha Fire**, reported at 3:13 a.m. on the La Jolla Indian Reservation, in San Diego County. Starting in a structure, the fire quickly burns into six-foot-tall

Daily Snapshot

Incident Name	MACS Priority* a.m. / p.m.	Crews	Engines	Dozers	Overhead	Acres**	Contained %
Ammo [†]	– / 11	0	5	0	0	350	0
Buckweed	8 / 8	28	144	13	130	37,812	80
Canyon	9 / 10	17	90	3	99	4,500	75
Grass Valley	3 / 1	16	58	2	160	1,000	0
Harris	6 / 6	16	93	2	116	72,000	10
Magic	10 / 0	0	21	0	5	2,000	80
McCoy	– / –	1	5	0	4	300	95
Poomacha	5 / 3	8	20	4	145	20,000	0
Ranch	7 / 7	26	145	12	99	47,240	10
Rice	4 / 4	14	101	6	68	7,500	10
Rosa	11 / 9	7	34	4	12	411	70
Santiago	2 / 5	5	109	2	43	19,191	30
Slide	3 / 1	3	83	0	97	4,000	0
Witch	1 / 2	39	230	22	142	196,420	10
Contained Fires***		23	57	7	74	1,840	100
Totals		203	1,195	77	1,194	414,564	

* Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) priority setting for resource allocation is based on the following criteria: Life Threatening Situations, Real Property Threatened, High Damage Potential, Incident Complexity, Potential for Timely Containment.

** Figures for acreage are cumulative for the incident throughout the siege.

*** When a fire is 100% contained, the fire name is deleted but the acreage burned and additional resources (used in mop-up) is added to the "Contained Fires" section.

[†] Resource data for Ammo Fire does not include military personnel. Fire was on a Military Reservation. Data used above was extracted from the Incident Status Summary (ICS-209).

A game of cards helps keep fears at bay for displaced children in one of the many evacuation centers. Volunteers and employees of the American Red Cross provided support and supplies for thousands of fire victims.



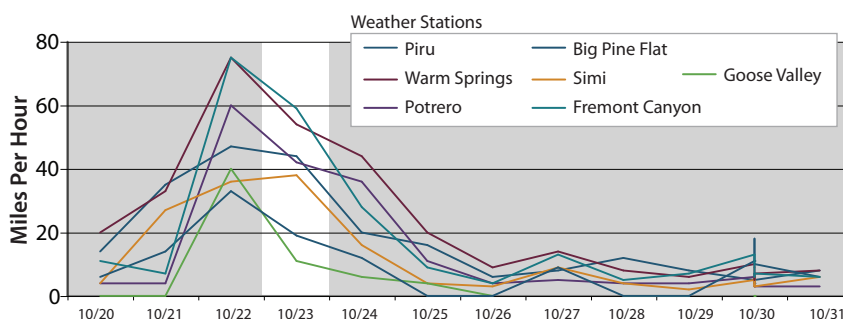
AMERICAN RED CROSS

chaparral. Driven by 50 mile per hour winds, the fire consumes 1,000 acres and threatens 2,000 residences in the Yellowbrick Road area of Valley Center. Reverse 911 evacuations are conducted for the entire Highway 76 corridor. Firefighters are unable to engage in direct fire suppression or formulate an effective strategy due to extreme fire behavior and limited resources at hand. Eight injuries are reported.

The Poomacha Fire increases substantially throughout the day. At one point the fire grows in size from 3,000 acres to 23,000 acres in an hour and a half. By afternoon, 50 residences have been destroyed. The fire threatens the communities of Valley Center, Rincon, and Deer Springs. Although some resources begin to arrive at the incident, no significant perimeter control has been initiated due to structure protection priorities as the fire burns toward Palomar Mountain.

The largest of the fires, the **Witch Fire**, continues to spread west and southwest passing through many communities. Multiple evacuations are ordered. In the early morning hours, there is a dramatic increase in wind and fire activity. The fire behavior is extreme with long-range spotting in excess of 1/4 mile and rapid rates of spread in excess of 2.5 miles-per-hour. Fire continues to burn through some areas very rapidly,

■ Peak Wind Speeds: October 20–31, 2007 October 23 highlighted



■ California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) opened fairgrounds and other facilities to provide urgent shelter for displaced residents as well as horses and other animals threatened by the wildfires.

California Fire Siege October 23, 2007

leaving behind unburned fuels and creating a dangerous re-burn potential.

Mandatory evacuations take effect for Scripps Ranch, Rancho Bernardo, Poway, Valley Center, San Marcos, and Rancho Santa Fe. By dawn, 500 homes have been destroyed and 250 are damaged; 100 commercial buildings have been destroyed, and 75 damaged. More than 5,000 homes and 1,500 commercial buildings are still threatened. Hopes for containment are tempered due to competition for resources combined with predictions for more winds. By early afternoon, the Witch Fire destroys an additional 100 homes over a three-hour period.

The **Santiago Fire** morning report shows current acreage at 18,000 acres with 30% containment. While good progress is made along the north and west portions of the fire, red flag conditions produce extreme and erratic fire behavior. Numerous communities along the Santa Ana Canyon corridor remain threatened. While damage assessment is ongoing, early reports show 13 structures destroyed and 20 structures damaged. About 4,500 structures remain

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) mobilized more than 2,300 inmates and more than 170 custody staff to fight wildfires in Southern California.



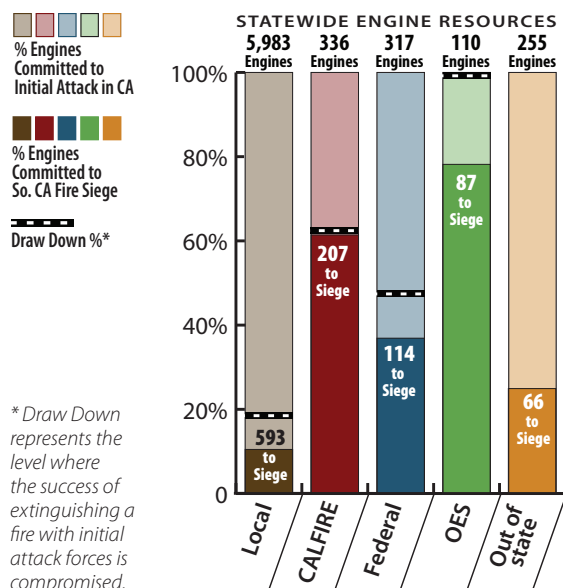
Firefighters take quick action to suppress a spot fire on the roof of a structure.

threatened. By noon, erratic winds push the fire in Modjeska Canyon, and threaten an additional 750 homes in the eastern foothill communities of Modjeska, Silverado and Santiago Canyons. Ground level winds are 20-to-30 miles per hour. Turbulence is moderate to severe for aircraft operating in the area. Air tankers are being used for limited structure protection and to put retardant imbs the lower ridges

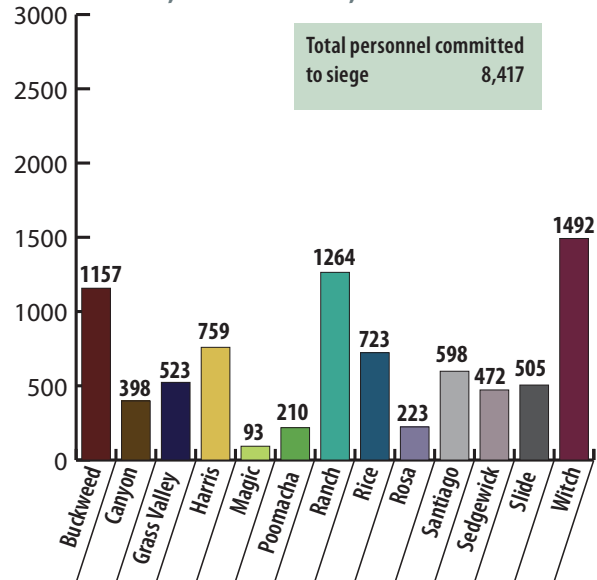
above Modjeska Canyon. Smoke creates visibility problems throughout the day as the winds shift from offshore to on-shore. The ongoing competition for resources continues to hamper containment efforts.

By evening, some requested resources begin to arrive, and some progress is made. Extreme fire behavior

Resources Committed: Engines, October 23, 2007



Resources Committed: Personnel, October 23, 2007



continues with the wind-driven head of the fire running into the urban interface areas of the eastern Orange County foothills. The fire moves into the heavier fuels of the Cleveland National Forest and makes runs into the community of Modjeska Canyon. Six homes have been destroyed, and several more damaged. Structure

■ California Emergency Services Authority activate Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs) from New Mexico and Washington.

protection proceeds in several eastern foothill canyon areas. Mandatory evacuations are ordered for Silverado, Modjeska, Williams, Ladd, Trabuco, Holy Jim and Live Oak Canyons.

With the fires burning at extreme rates of spread, the **Slide/Grass Valley** fires still threaten hundreds of

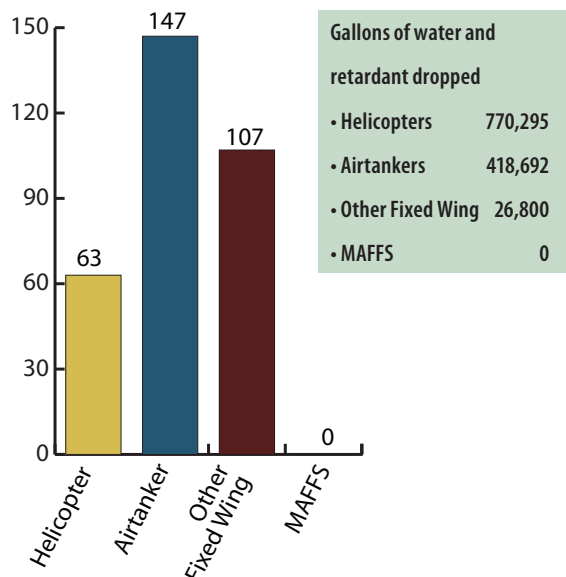
structures. Mandatory evacuations are ordered for Arrow Bear, Lake Arrowhead, Running Springs, Green Valley Lake, and Twin Peaks. All roads into the mountain communities are closed. The command teams from the Slide and Grass Valley incidents are now sharing meetings and resources. Extreme, wind-driven fire behavior, including group torching, crown runs and spotting, results in the Grass Valley fire making significant runs through structures. Aerial resources provide structure protection and cool the advancing flames so that ground resources can successfully engage. In several cases, ground crews have been unable to work on the fire's edge, and aerial resources are successfully used for structure protection.

Mandatory evacuations are in place from Crestline east to Snow Valley Ski Area. Voluntary evacuations are in effect west of Crestline, including Valley of the Enchanted and Cedar Pines Park. Evacuations to the south include North Highlands. The Mountains Community Hospital in Lake Arrowhead is evacuating patients.

Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) Plans are reviewed and implementation begins with available resources. Over 2,000 people are sheltered at evacuation centers. Closure of the San Bernardino National Forest is in effect, with limited open access. Early estimates state that between the Grass Valley and Slide Fire, nearly 300 structures have been damaged or consumed by the fire. The damage assessment team has limited access to confirm initial reports of damage. More than 10,000 structures remain threatened. Firefighter fatigue becomes a serious issue.

The entire community of Green Valley is evacuated as the Slide Fire surrounds the area. Firefighters were forced to withdraw from the area yesterday due to extreme fire behavior. The fire perimeter is currently within the community of Running Springs, with some loss of structures. The fire threatens several

■ Resources Committed: Aircraft, Flight Hours, October 23, 2007



■ Wind pushes fire and embers into structure

DAN ELLIOT

■ Governor Schwarzenegger, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator David Paulison and San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders toured the emergency evacuation center at Qualcomm Stadium.



The “Devil Winds”

Santa Ana winds are a California firefighter’s nightmare. These blustery, dry, and often hot winds blow out of the desert and race through canyons and mountain passes on their way toward the coast. The air is hot not because it is bringing heat from the desert, but because it is flowing downslope from higher elevations. As summer ends and fall progresses, cold air begins to sink into the Great Basin deserts to the east of California. As the air piles up in the desert basins, high pressure builds and the air begins to flow downslope toward the coast. When winds blow downslope, the air is compressed, causing it to warm and dry out. In fact, the air can warm at a rate of 10 degrees Celsius per kilometer of descent (29 degrees Fahrenheit per mile). Canyons and passes funnel the winds, which increases their speed. Not only do the winds spread the fire, but they also dry out vegetation, making it even more flammable.

Courtesy NASA

communities in the Running Springs and Arrowbear, as well as Calvary Chapel Camp, National Children’s Forest and Visitors Center and Snow Valley and Nordic Rim ski areas.

Driven by 50 mile per hour winds, the Rice Fire makes major runs toward the town of Fallbrook and is positioned to burn into Santa Margarita and Sandia Creek Drainages. It is anticipated this fire will combine with the Rosa Fire. Reports indicate that as many as 500 residences may have been destroyed, and up to 30 damaged. Over 2,500 residences are currently threatened. Smoky conditions preclude the use of air tankers and only a limited number of helicopters are able to fly.

Evening provides no relief, and the Rice Fire continues to experience erratic and extreme fire behavior, with active burning in the Rainbow Glen area and the Santa Margarita drainage. Evacuation of the Deluz Canyon area is in progress. Red flag warnings will remain in effect until 3:00 p.m. tomorrow. Approximately 1,500 residences are threatened in Fallbrook. An estimated 20,000 avocado trees have been incinerated.

The Harris Fire reports extreme fire behavior due to weather conditions. The fire threatens to establish in the Otay River drainage and burn through Chula Vista. Most resource orders remain unfilled due to extraordinary resource competition. The fire burns over 100 homes in Deerhorn Valley and Honey Springs. Residents are sheltered at Fire Station 66. Fire moves rapidly to the west-southwest toward Chula Vista and Otay Lake, and north toward the south end of Barrett Lake. A critical power sub-station and a water treatment plant are endangered and firefighters are actively engaged in protection. An additional 200 to 500 homes have been destroyed or damaged, and more than 2,000 are still threatened. Almost 5,000 people are being evacuated, with more evacuations being ordered.

Smoke and weather conditions make air operations difficult and dangerous. However, aircraft is used to protect ground troops. By evening, the Harris Fire reports that a wind change aids in successful structure protection in Chula Vista and San Diego City toward Otay. The returning onshore flow moves the fire to the northeast and threatens structures along Highway 94 from Jamul to the east, and Jamacha to the west. The Evacuation Center at Steele Canyon is threatened where 200 people are sheltered in place. Structures are destroyed in the communities of: Lyons Valley, Lawson Valley, Rancho San Diego, Millar

Ranch, Indian Springs and Jamul. Two critical communications sites are threatened in San Miguel and Monte Vista.

One additional civilian suffers burns and is treated and transported to a local hospital. To date, one civilian has been killed by this fire and 21 civilians have been injured.

The Ranch Fire poses a threat to the communities of Fillmore, Piru, Ventura, and Ojai. Evacuations continue. The fire also threatens the Condor Sanctuary, Sespe Wilderness Area and Hopper Canyon National Wildlife Refuge. Major transmission lines are also threatened. Fire control problems continue due to extreme wind conditions, steep terrain and infrastructure challenges. Infrared Imagery indicate the areas embodying the most heat are on the north flank in Turtle Canyon and Sharps Canyon near the Day Fire (2006) burn, and to the west of Hopper Canyon. The Buckweed, Ranch and Magic fires are anticipated to burn together within 24-to-48 hours. The Magic and Ranch fires are now on opposite sides of Highway 126 at the Los Angeles/Ventura County line, about two miles apart.

By evening, the Ranch Fire experiences cautious optimism. The fire moves into Ventura County with some active backing fire in Violin Canyon near Interstate-5 and Castaic. Wind-driven runs advance toward Oat Mountain and Oak Flat. The fire begins to spread by rollout into Little Sespe Creek. The prediction of the Ranch, Buckweed, and Magic fires merging is no longer a concern.

Reports from the Buckweed Fire show moderate fire behavior. The fire continues to threaten a large number of residential and commercial structures in the communities of Santa Clarita, Castaic and Mint Canyon. By evening, major progress on line construction is made with little to no spread expected. Evacuations are lifted for all areas except Bouquet Canyon. The fire stands at 80% contained.

The Magic Fire is caught quickly and full containment is expected on October 24.

With decreased winds, firefighters on the Canyon Fire continue to make effective progress. The fire reports 75% containment and the demobilization of resources begins.

On the Rosa Fire, poor water supply and limited road access leads to competition between fire equipment and evacuees. However, good progress is made overnight with direct fire line construction. By evening, evacuation and road closure restrictions are lifted.

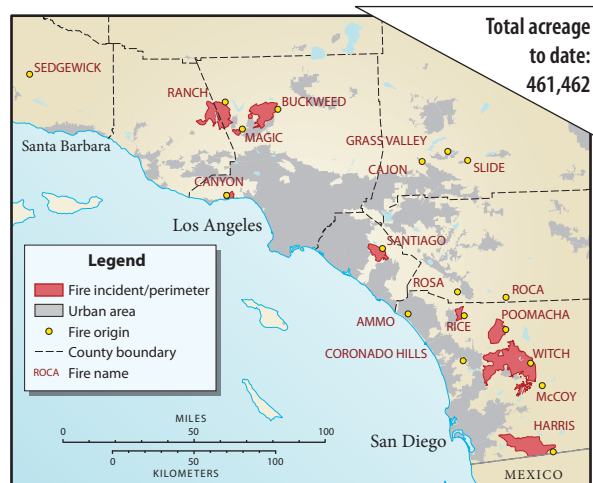
As progress is being made on some incidents, a new start is reported. At 9:20 a.m., the Ammo Fire starts at the Camp Pendleton Marine Corp Base, in San Diego County. Erratic fire behavior was observed as the fire burned into dense chaparral over steep terrain. Some mandatory evacuations occur within the camp. By evening, the Ammo Fire reports 50% containment at 3,000 acres, with full containment expected on October 25.

Meanwhile, good progress is made on the **Cajon Fire**, which reports 90% containment at 250 acres.

■ A toll-free phone line was set up for businesses to use for the efficient collection and distribution of large quantity donations to evacuation centers.

The Fires: Day 4

■ Wednesday, October 24, 2007



■ President Bush declared major disaster, for seven counties for Individual Assistance, Public Assistance Categories A and B, and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide.

Predictive Services Morning Report:

With the strong ridge of high pressure over California, temperatures will remain 10-to-20 degrees above normal and minimum humidity will remain in the single digits and teens today. Northeast-to-east winds will be locally 10-to-20 miles per hour with gusts up to 30 miles per hour over the mountains and below the canyons and passes of Southern California this morning. Winds will become light this afternoon over Southern California, with onshore winds over the coastal areas and upslope winds over most foothill and mountain locations.

Today's Events:

As the Santa Ana wind event begins to subside, many of the large fires report moderate fire behavior. However, the anticipated change in wind direction to a more normal onshore flow raises the potential for a new set of dangers. The intense wind speeds caused some fuels to be passed over by rapidly moving fires. This unburned fuel is now vulnerable to re-burn with the reversing winds.

More progress is made on the **Grass Valley Fire** due to a decrease in winds combined with increased relative humidity and effective perimeter control. Fire behavior is limited to creeping and backing fire with short uphill runs. Even with the decrease in erratic fire behavior,

■ Daily Snapshot

Incident Name	MACS Priority* a.m. / p.m.	Crews	Engines	Dozers	Overhead	Acres**	Contained %
Ammo†	10 / 8	3	15	0	10	10,000	0
Canyon	11 / 0	17	50	3	99	4,500	85
Grass Valley	1 / 1	16	109	3	1,015	1,100	30
Harris	6 / 6	33	149	4	169	75,000	10
Poomacha	3 / 3	24	73	10	67	35,000	10
Ranch	7 / 7	27	60	16	99	54,716	70
Rice	4 / 4	19	112	11	181	9,000	20
Santiago	5 / 5	11	276	4	67	22,000	30
Slide	1 / 1	12	92	2	87	10,800	0
Witch	2 / 2	45	293	22	190	196,240	20
Contained Fires***		41	59	5	168	43,106	100
Totals		248	1,288	80	2,152	461,462	

* Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) priority setting for resource allocation is based on the following criteria: Life Threatening Situations, Real Property Threatened, High Damage Potential, Incident Complexity, Potential for Timely Containment.

** Figures for acreage are cumulative for the incident throughout the siege.

*** When a fire is 100% contained, the fire name is deleted but the acreage burned and additional resources (used in mop-up) is added to the "Contained Fires" section.

† Resource data for Ammo Fire does not include military personnel. Fire was on a Military Reservation. Data used above was extracted from the Incident Status Summary (ICS-209).

Firefighters work shoulder to shoulder as they advance on the blaze that threatens to consume a home in the Wildland Urban Interface.



large-scale evacuations and road closures remain in effect for the surrounding fire area. Damage assessment teams enter the fire area.

The **Slide Fire** reports moderate intensity fire behavior with three-to-six-foot flame lengths; the fire mainly spreading by spotting, group torching and short crown runs. Additional structures are destroyed in Running Springs and Fredalba. A damage assessment team arrives on scene. At 4:30 p.m., the winds shift to the west-northwest and the fire once again threatens the evacuated communities between Running Springs, Snow Valley and Nordic Rim Ski Resort.

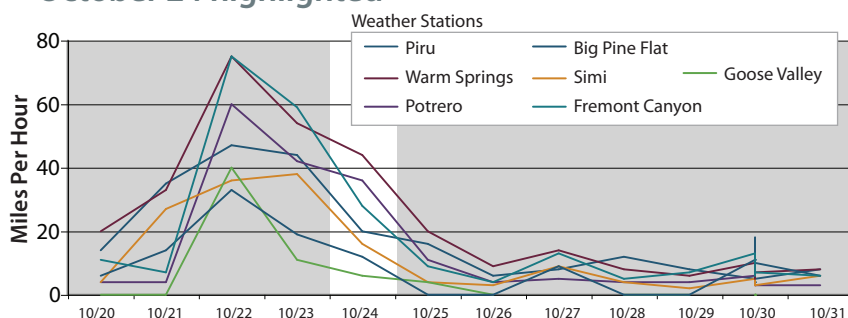
Acreage for the **Witch Fire** remains at 196,420 acres with an estimated 20% containment. Fire progression slows to the west, southwest, and northwest due to improvement in weather and additional resources being assigned to the fire. Winds in the fire area remain variable with coastal influence returning to the valleys. Warm, dry and unstable conditions exist at the higher elevations and the eastern areas of the fire. Fire continues to burn within and around structures with moderate to high intensity. Perimeter growth persists on the eastern side of the fire in mature, heavy brush and brush that resprouted after the 2003 fire siege.

The Poomacha Fire continues to burn close to the north flank of the Witch Incident. Favorable progress on containment is made on the eastern flank. Conditions improve sufficiently to evaluate the return of residents to the communities of Poway, Escondido, Rancho Santa Fe and Rancho Bernardo.

A shift in the wind drives the **Poomacha Fire** in a northeasterly direction resulting in an increase in fire

■ Peak Wind Speeds: October 20–31, 2007

October 24 highlighted



The Slide Fire experiences group torching and short crown runs today.

California Fire Siege October 24, 2007

- Governor Schwarzenegger announced a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction in a California court of the person or persons responsible for setting the Santiago Fire.

acreage to 35,000. Thirty mile-per-hour winds, long-range spotting and extreme rates of spread occur. Perimeter control is initiated with the arrival of some requested resources. Structure protection remains in place. Visibility to the west is extremely poor, and MAFFS aircraft are able to make only one drop each before sunset.

Valley Center, Rincon, Deer Springs, Pauma Valley, Escondido, Vista, Mt. Palomar Community, Palomar Observatory, and communications towers continue to be threatened. An estimated 50 structures have been destroyed.

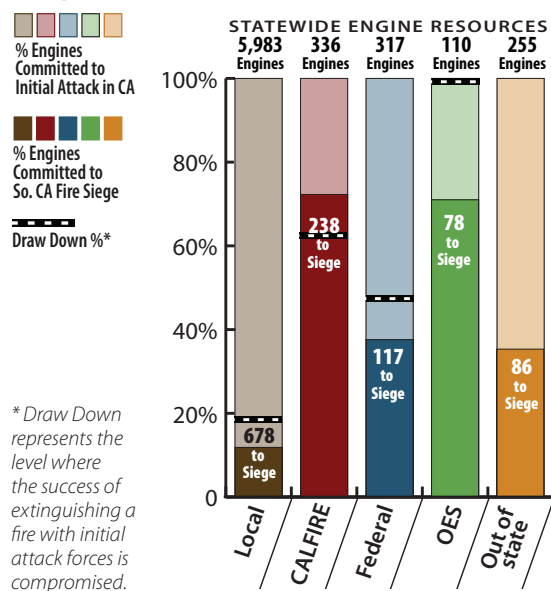
Strong, gusty winds overnight produce rapid rates of spread and frequent spotting on the **Rice Fire**, allowing the fire to become established in the Santa Margarita drainage. However, fire spread slows, experiencing only isolated runs due to a decrease in afternoon winds. Progress is made with perimeter control and structure protection. Evacuation orders remain in effect for Fallbrook and outlying areas with over 45,000 evacuees from the Fallbrook and Deluz area.

On the **Santiago Fire**, changing wind patterns and critical fire weather conditions persist, maintaining severe fire behavior with rapid rates of spread. The fire is very active overnight and additional structures are destroyed in Modjeska Canyon. Significant effort is made to effectively and safely protect assets in the vicinities of Williams Canyon, Modjeska Canyon, and Harding Truck Road. The fire progresses to the northeast. Due to difficult terrain and fire activity, control opportunities in the immediate fire location on the eastern flank are extremely limited. Evacuations are in effect in canyons along Santiago Canyon Road and the communities of Silverado, Modjeska, Trabuco, Live Oak, Williams, Holy Jim and the Cleveland National Forest. The San Onofre/Chino power transmission grid is threatened. The lack of available resources continues to be a concern.

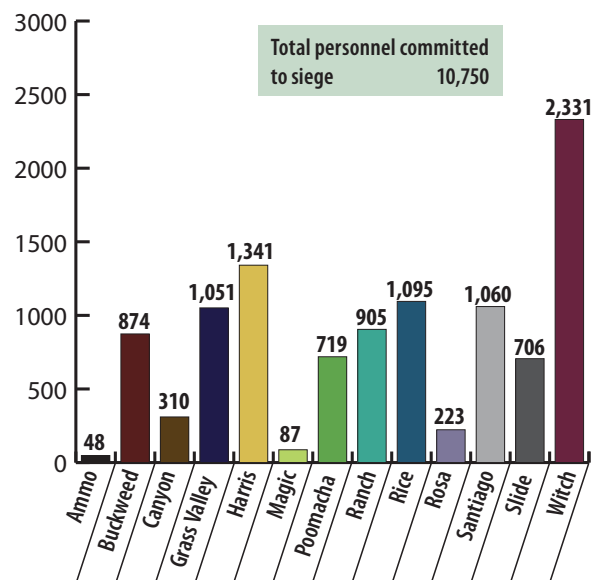
- Amendment No. 1 to FEMA-3279-EM-CA designates the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura for Individual Assistance.

Erratic fire behavior due to changing weather conditions continues to be the norm on the Harris Fire. While east-northeast winds remain active on the eastern portion of the fire, the normal onshore flow begins to influence the western portion. This returning onshore flow moves the fire to the northeast, threatening structures along

Resources Committed: Engines, October 24, 2007



Resources Committed: Personnel, October 24, 2007



Dry fuels and changing winds threaten new areas of the Harris (at left) and other fires.



■ Federal Incident Response Team (FIRST) Atlanta and Task Force San Diego activated to provide situational awareness and support to mission requirements at Qualcomm Stadium.

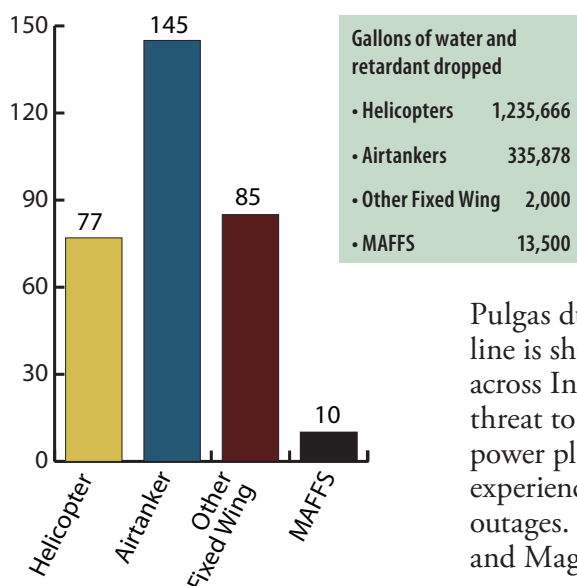
Highway 94 from Jamul to the east and Jamacha to the west. Lyons Peak burns when the fire jumps perimeter control lines, damaging the regional communications equipment and destroying the back-up generator. Crews quickly install a portable repeater to support fire communications. The fire burns north in the Barrett Lake area, consuming old, heavy fuels. With a detailed damage assessment about 55% complete, it is estimated that 1,500 homes have been threatened with 200 of those destroyed or damaged.

Most initial attack resources have been engaged continuously since the beginning of the fire; crew fatigue has become a serious problem. Most resource orders remain unfilled as the demand from incidents in the southern part of the state continues and available resources from out of the region have been drained down. Knowing this, incident commanders make adjustments to mitigate resource shortages

The **Ranch Fire** reports considerably slowing fire spread, with no significant new fire activity. Light winds and extremely dry fuels result in small isolated slope-driven runs in the southwest portion of the fire. The north flank runs into the Day Fire (2006) burn. Good progress is made on the west flank.

Evacuations are lifted in all areas and all roads reopen. A red flag fire weather warning for the Ranch Fire is cancelled at 3:30 p.m. The NASA Ikhana Unmanned Aerial System flight provides thermal intelligence regarding the fire, including perimeter information. Containment is estimated at 70%. Demobilized resources are reassigned to assist other Southern California incidents.

■ Resources Committed: Aircraft, Flight Hours, October 24, 2007



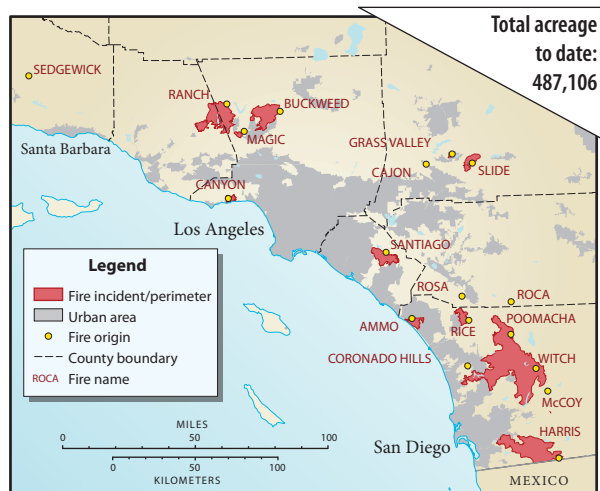
Early morning reports for the **Ammo Fire** show good progress and optimistic predictions. Acreage burned stands at 7,500, with 50% containment. Later in the day, however, the fire escapes containment on the south flank, spreading southeast and parallel to Interstate-5. Because visibility is estimated at only one mile, the MAFFS are diverted to the Poomacha Fire. By evening, the Ammo Fire has grown to 10,000 acres, and is only 10% contained. Interstate-5 southbound is closed at Basilone and northbound at Las

Pulgas due to smoke and downed power lines. The Metro Link Rail line is shut down from milepost 212.3 to milepost 225.3. Fire spots across Interstate-5 into San Onofre State Park although there is no threat to the nearby nuclear power plant. Camp Pendleton experiences sporadic power outages. Both the Buckweed and Magic fires are contained.

■ FEMA Joint Field Office (JFO) established in Pasadena.

The Fires: Day 5

■ Thursday, October 25, 2007



■ Small Business Disaster Assistance Loan Guarantee Program was activated.

■ Special load permits issued for trucks carrying disaster relief supplies.

■ Daily Snapshot

Incident Name	MACS Priority* a.m. / p.m.	Crews	Engines	Dozers	Overhead	Acres**	Contained %
Ammo [†]	6 / 6	3	28	0	31	15,000	50
Grass Valley	8 / 8	20	72	3	215	1,100	70
Harris	2 / 2	33	149	4	169	84,000	20
Poomacha	3 / 3	34	147	18	164	38,500	30
Ranch	– / 9	11	45	8	99	56,235	81
Rice	7 / 7	19	111	12	174	9,000	40
Santiago	4 / 4	28	216	11	130	26,000	30
Slide	1 / 1	25	213	6	55	11,675	15
Witch	5 / 5	53	365	22	228	197,990	30
Contained Fires***		21	10	5	150	47,606	100
Totals		247	1,356	89	1,415	487,106	

* Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) priority setting for resource allocation is based on the following criteria: Life Threatening Situations, Real Property Threatened, High Damage Potential, Incident Complexity, Potential for Timely Containment.

** Figures for acreage are cumulative for the incident throughout the siege.

*** When a fire is 100% contained, the fire name is deleted but the acreage burned and additional resources (used in mop-up) is added to the "Contained Fires" section.

Data used above was extracted from the Incident Status Summary (ICS-209).

Predictive Services Morning Report:

The ridge of high pressure over the southwestern states will weaken. However, temperatures will remain above normal, and humidity will remain low through Friday. For the most part, there will be typical diurnal winds over the region through early next week. Winds will be light offshore or downslope nights and mornings, and light onshore or upslope in the afternoons.

Today's Events:

The wind pattern returns to a more normal diurnal flow, and acts favorably on many of the ongoing fires. However, fire personnel remain cautious as changes in wind direction can cause sudden, erratic fire behavior.

The **Grass Valley Fire** reports little perimeter growth during the night. During the day, isolated interior tree torching with some backing, creeping, and smoldering fire behavior is observed. Evacuation and road closure orders remain in effect for a large area surrounding the Grass Valley and **Slide Fires**. Progress is made on line construction and burning out in Miller Canyon. Damage assessment teams continue their work. The fire team works with cooperating agencies and utilities to plan for residents' re-entry into the mandatory evacuation area.

The **Slide Fire** reports moderate fire behavior with some backing, occasional torching, and short range spotting. A fire line is successfully established in some areas. Continued success with a perimeter control strategy is anticipated as critical resources begin to arrive. Plans for re-entry into the mandatory evacuation area are made.

Fire progression for the **Witch Fire** slows to the west, southwest, and northwest due to improvement in weather and additional resources assigned to the fire. Coastal influence and westerly winds return to low-lying areas and coastal valleys. Progress on containment is favorable on

the west side, allowing the return of residents into Poway, Escondido, Rancho Santa Fe, San Diego and Rancho Bernardo. Warm, dry and unstable conditions still exist at the higher elevations and in the eastern areas of the fire where the perimeter continues to grow. The fire is burning in mature heavy brush and resprouted brush from the 2003 fire siege. The Poomacha Fire merges with the Witch Fire. San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) begins to re-establish utility service in some affected areas. President Bush, Governor Schwarzenegger and Senator Feinstein survey the fire area and visit Incident Base in the morning. Damage assessments report 239 destroyed vehicles.

Ongoing firing operations and line construction continue throughout the day on the **Poomacha Fire**. The control line, which is tied into the Witch Fire, is holding although some spotting across the line occurs. Mop-up and patrolling is underway in the flats, but there is still fire actively burning in the Pauma Reservation and Palomar Mountain areas. The fire enters the Aqua Tibia Wilderness where control operations remain difficult due to steep terrain, inaccessibility, and lack of handcrew. Active structure protection is ongoing in the Mt. Palomar area where 450 structures are threatened. Re-entry plans are being developed for displaced residents.



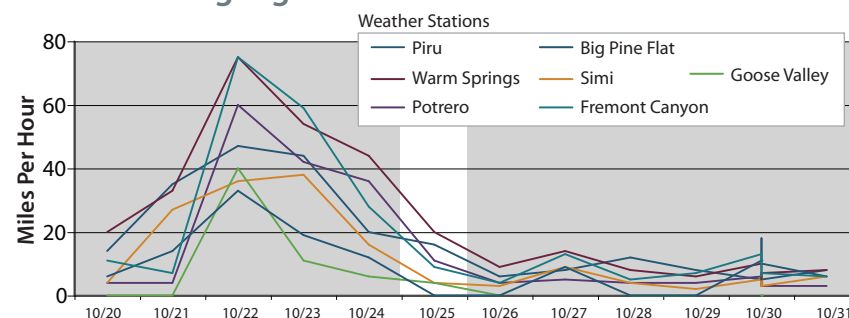
WES SCHULTZ

■ Operation strategies are evaluated and revised as winds slow.

■ U.S. Department of Labor approved a \$50 million grant to hire workers in disaster assistance jobs.

■ Peak Wind Speeds: October 20–31, 2007

October 25 highlighted



WES SCHULTZ

California Fire Siege October 25, 2007

- President Bush, Senator Feinstein, Congressman Bilbray, and Governor Schwarzenegger meet with firefighters at incident base camps, meet homeowners at Rancho Bernardo Community Center, tour a Rancho Bernardo neighborhood destroyed by fires, and take an aerial tour of the burned areas of Rancho Bernardo, Poway, and Escondido in Marine One.

Good progress is made on the **Rice Fire**. Crews construct and improve portions of the line, anticipating a dangerous change in wind direction with the potential to push the fire into Riverside County toward Temecula and endanger fire fighters. Fire activity is generally limited to localized flare-ups. Although structure protection is still in place, portions of Fallbrook are reopened to residents. Plans are made for a gradual lifting of additional evacuations over the next several days.

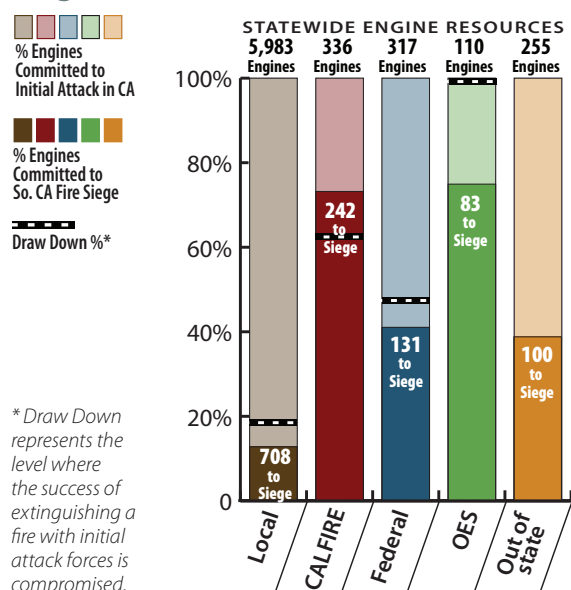
Changing wind patterns and critical fire weather, combined with problematic fuel and topographic conditions, produce very active fire behavior with rapid rates of spread on the **Santiago Fire**. The fire burns east to within one mile of Modjeska Peak. A contingency group is formed to triage extremely critical telecommunication sites along the main divide. In the meantime, good progress is made in burning around and securing structures in the Modjeska Canyon area. Resource shortages continue to be a challenge in meeting incident control objectives.

- Denver Mobile Emergency Response Support/Mobile Emergency Operations Vehicle (MERS/MEOV) activated and deployed.

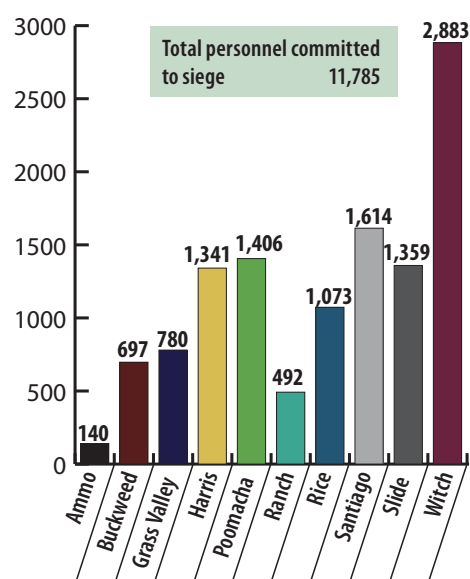
Riverside County develops a comprehensive strategic contingency plan in the event that the Rice, Poomacha, or Santiago fires cross into the county.

The **Harris Fire** remains active in old and extremely dry fuels with active burning on the northern and eastern portions of the fire. The heavy fuels and steep terrain on the northern edge of the fire present few control opportunities. Active structure protection continues in Lyons Valley. The fire spots across the southwest arm of Barrett Lake and approximately 500 more homes are evacuated. Evaluation of re-entry of civilians to other evacuated areas continues today. Residents in the Thousand Trails, Potrero and Tecate neighborhoods are allowed to return. The cities of Chula Vista and San Diego are no longer threatened. Four additional fatalities are discovered inside the fire perimeter. A total of five civilians have been killed

Resources Committed: Engines, October 25, 2007



Resources Committed: Personnel, October 25, 2007



and 21 injured by this fire. Personnel are exhausted. Some additional resources begin trickling in, however, many resource orders remain unfilled as demand exceeds the immediately available supply.

Successful suppression efforts limit fire spread in most locations of the **Ranch Fire**. Dry fuel conditions and up-canyon winds stimulate runs on the north side of the fire that spread into the Day Fire burn (2006). Fire crews rappel on the west end of the fire and construct a direct line in the Hopper Mountain, Oat Mountain, and Little Sespe Creek areas. Good progress is made in mopping up contained areas. Estimated control date is extended by five days to allow for mopping up in difficult-to-access areas where the threat of fire is low.

By 6:00 p.m. the **Ammo Fire** reports burned acreage of 15,000 with 50% containment. The fire still poses a threat to base facilities.

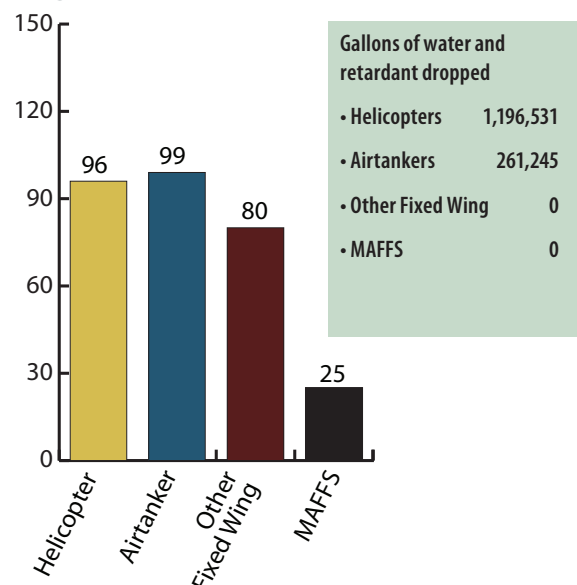
The **Ammo** Incident Team (Team 5) and the **Rice** Incident Team (Team 3) form a unified command to share incident base facilities with the North County Fire Protection District, including supplies and services.

■ 54 shelters are open with a total population of approximately 19,440.

Evacuees in Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego find ways to pass the time.



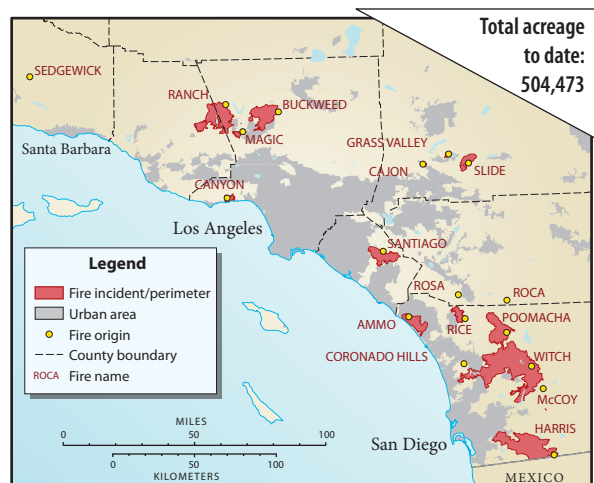
■ Resources Committed: Aircraft, Flight Hours, October 25, 2007



A member of an engine crew is silhouetted by brilliant flames as he works the fire line at night.

The Fires: Day 6

■ Friday, October 26, 2007



■ State and Consumer Services Agency sets up a toll-free number to take reports of scams, fraud, and abuse and to provide information on contractors, loan officers and other licensed professionals to assist victims of the fires.

Predictive Services Morning Report:

A trough over Northern California will enhance the marine layer along the central and Southern California coast, bringing cooler temperatures, higher humidity, and a little stronger onshore flow to the entire region today and Saturday. In the fire areas, temperatures will mainly be in the 70s and 80s, and humidity values in the 15 to 25% range both today and Saturday. Winds will turn southwest-to-west by this afternoon, at five-to- 15 miles per hour.

Today's Events:

As the Santa Ana wind event subsides and the normal onshore flow returns to the area, most of the nine remaining large fires report minimal fire spread and estimate full containment within the next five days.

The **Harris Fire** remains active in old, extremely dry fuels and steep terrain, in particular, along the northern edge of the fire. Active structure protection continues in Lyons Valley. The team continues to develop contingency plans to protect communities to the north toward Interstate-8, and to the east along Buckman Springs Road. Residents of Thousand Trails, Potrero, Tecate and western Jamul areas are allowed re-entry. The estimated containment date is October 31.

■ Daily Snapshot

Incident Name	MACS Priority* a.m. / p.m.	Crews	Engines	Dozers	Overhead	Acres**	Contained %
Ammo [†]	6 / 7	0	49	0	33	21,004	90
Grass Valley	8 / 8	16	79	2	152	1,140	75
Harris	2 / 1	41	219	25	313	85,000	35
Poomacha	3 / 3	48	164	29	150	42,000	35
Ranch	9 / 0	7	27	6	89	58,401	94
Rice	7 / 6	19	103	2	173	9,000	60
Santiago	4 / 4	37	212	18	186	27,600	35
Slide	1 / 2	27	321	35	107	13,700	20
Witch	5 / 5	64	352	22	235	197,990	45
Contained Fires***		3	16	0	19	48,558	100
Totals		262	1,542	139	1,457	504,473	

* Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) priority setting for resource allocation is based on the following criteria: Life Threatening Situations, Real Property Threatened, High Damage Potential, Incident Complexity, Potential for Timely Containment.

** Figures for acreage are cumulative for the incident throughout the siege.

*** When a fire is 100% contained, the fire name is deleted but the acreage burned and additional resources (used in mop-up) is added to the "Contained Fires" section.

[†] Resource data for Ammo Fire does not include military personnel. Fire was on a Military Reservation. Data used above was extracted from the Incident Status Summary (ICS-209).

Flames and smoke billow through the dense brush on a hillside. The winds begin to subside today allowing firefighters to make substantial progress on most fires.



The **Slide Fire** reports moderate intensity, active surface and backing fire with short runs, torching, and short-range spotting. Structure protection remains in place for Lake Arrowhead Scout Camps. An additional structure is destroyed this morning in Running Springs. Contingency plans for fire movement toward Lake Arrowhead are developed. Damage assessment continues.

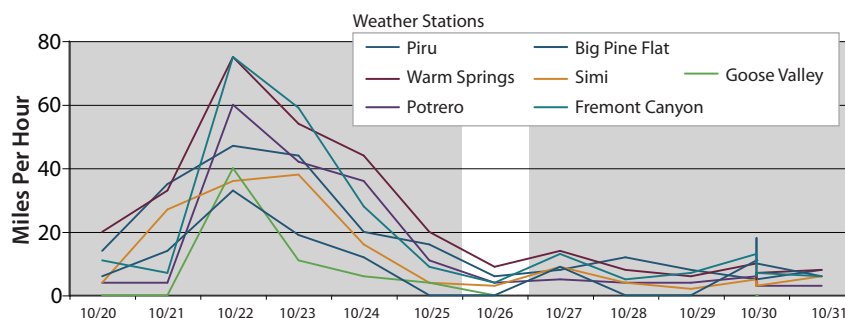
The **Poomacha Fire** reports active fire behavior as the fire continues to burn in the Aqua Tibia Wilderness. Re-entry of residents begins in some areas. Extensive assessment progresses and 78 structures are reported destroyed.

The **Santiago Fire** has burned to Modjeska Peak and poses a threat to the San Onofre/Chino power grid and telecommunications facilities. A secondary line is planned along the Orange/Riverside County border.

The **Witch Fire** reports containment progress on the west flank of the fire. However, onshore winds continue to affect control lines with warm, dry, and unstable conditions at high elevations and on eastern areas of the fire. The Poomacha and Witch fires merge. Protecting the San Diego Wild Animal Park and a local Indian reservation remain a concern. Re-entry of residents continues in Poway, Escondido, Rancho Santa Fe, San Diego and Rancho Bernardo, as well as in Julian, Wynola, Cuyamaca, Del Dios and Lake Hodges. Ramona evacuations are lifted. The estimated containment date is October 31.

■ Peak Wind Speeds: October 20–31, 2007

October 26 highlighted



■ Governor Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order S-13-07 directing state agencies to take numerous actions:

- suspend the one-week waiting period for unemployment insurance
- waive fees in the replacement of certain vital documents
- expedite cleanup and debris removal

California Fire Siege October 26, 2007

With the change in wind direction, the **Rice Fire** reports significant progress on fire line construction, although portions of the fire perimeter are still in need of line construction. Deluz and areas north of Mission Road continue to be threatened. Meanwhile, re-entry continues for portions of Fallbrook. The estimated containment date is set at October 28.

The **Ammo Fire** commanders predict no fire spread for the next operational period. Acreage burned to date is 21,084 acres, with 90% containment.

The **Grass Valley Fire** reports good progress in the Miller Canyon drainage with no perimeter growth anticipated in this operational period. Mandatory evacuation orders for the Crestline community are reduced to voluntary status. All other evacuation and road closures remain in effect. Current acreage burned stands at 1,140 acres with 75 % containment. The estimated containment date is set for October 28.

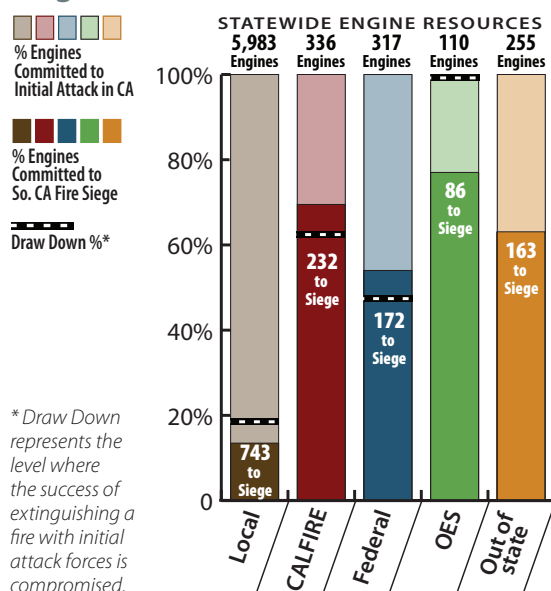
The **Ranch Fire** reports complete line construction on the west perimeter of the fire with good progress made overall. The team sets an expected containment date of October 30.



Firefighters feel a cautious optimism as the Santa Ana Winds begin to slow.

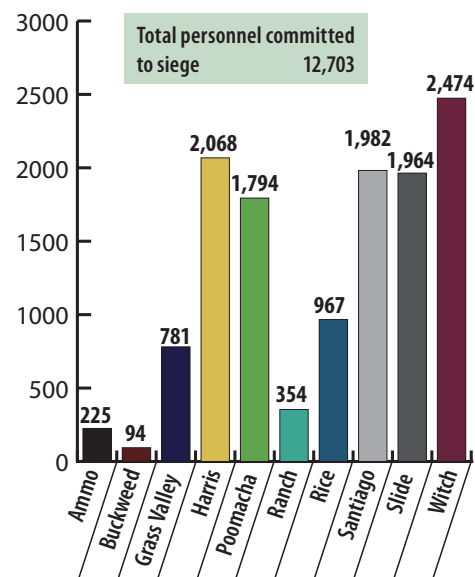
Resources Committed:

Engines, October 26, 2007



Resources Committed:

Personnel, October 26, 2007



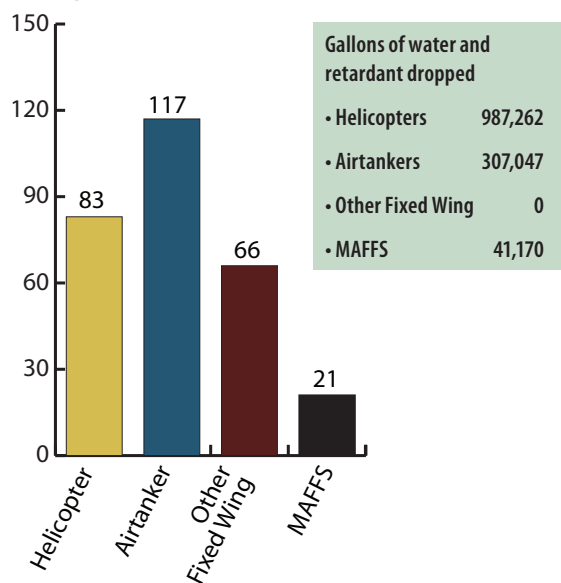
President George W. Bush shakes hands with firefighters during his tour of the siege.



■ ESF-4 resources arrive in California and are dispersed to incidents.

■ Evacuation center at Qualcomm Stadium closed.

■ Resources Committed: Aircraft, Flight Hours, October 26, 2007



■ A resident surveys the damage done by the Santiago fire.

KEVIN LABIANCO

The Fires: Day 7

Saturday, October 27, 2007

Predictive Services Morning Report:

A trough off the California coast will combine with some subtropical moisture to produce widespread cloudiness today across region, along with a few light showers or sprinkles. Temperatures will be seasonable and the humidity will rise a little over most of the fires with the mid-level moisture overhead. In the fire areas, temperatures will mainly be in the 70s-to-low-80s and humidity values should rise to the 15-to-30% range. East-to-southeast winds this morning will switch to the southwest and west at 8-to-18 miles per hour this afternoon.

Today's Events:

Fire activity on the **Harris Fire** decreases dramatically as humidity increases. Evacuation orders are lifted for all areas. Firing operations are successful along Wilson Creek. Direct line construction continues in Hauser Canyon near Barrett Lake. Alternate control lines are constructed to support the Lawson Valley contingency plan. Air tanker operations on the fire are concluded. Helicopter operations continue to support ground troops.

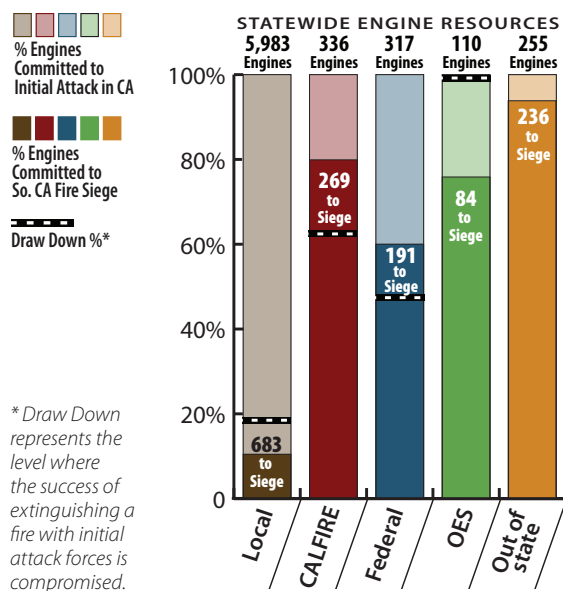
- Governor Schwarzenegger holds a press conference to reinforce the state and law enforcement's commitment to capture and prosecute arsonists and to discuss further actions to protect fire victims against price gouging and insurance scams.

Various aerial infrared platforms fly the fire to identify hot spots and help refine the fire perimeter map. Search and rescue operations continue. Damage inspection of burned structures is ongoing. Assessments of areas for fire suppression rehabilitation needs are under way.

Good progress is made in containing fire spread on all flanks of the **Slide Fire**. The estimated number of residences threatened in the communities of Crab Flats, Running Springs, Smiley Park and Arrowbear decreases from 10,000 to 5,500. However, closure orders remain in effect. Utility companies work hard to support re-entry of evacuated residents. Very light precipitation occurs over some areas of fire.

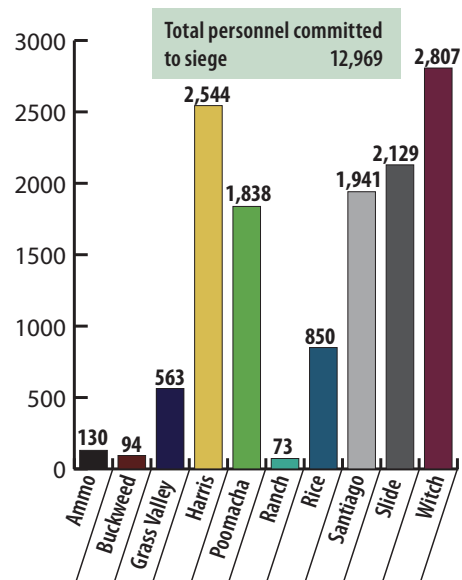
Resources Committed:

Engines, October 27, 2007



Resources Committed:

Personnel, October 27, 2007



The **Poomacha Fire** experiences moderate fire behavior with short runs upslope to ridge tops. The estimated number of residences threatened decreases from 2,000 to 500. The reported number of residences destroyed increases from 78 to 136. There is a short period of light rain on the fire, but it has little effect.

Cooler weather and cloud cover slow down fire behavior on the **Santiago Fire**. However, a potential change in the weather bringing warmer and drier conditions is forecast for tomorrow. Current and future threats to property and structures still exist as the fire slowly backs down Silverado Canyon. Bulldozers continue to work to tie in control lines above Silverado Canyon and North Main Divide.

■ California Department of Social Services to administer cash grants of up to \$10,000 to help individuals who have suffered losses in the fires.

■ ESF-2 demobilized.

The **Witch Fire** experiences no significant fire spread overnight, and good progress on containment occurs on all branches. Open line in the San Diego river drainage and the Poomacha Fire interface area is an ongoing concern. Warm, dry and unstable conditions still exist at the higher elevations. Re-entry begins to the Del Dios, Alpine and Peutz Valley areas. San Diego Gas and Electric starts restoring utility service to some affected areas. Meanwhile, firefighters continue to implement strategies to minimize the impacts to the Agua Tibia Wilderness.

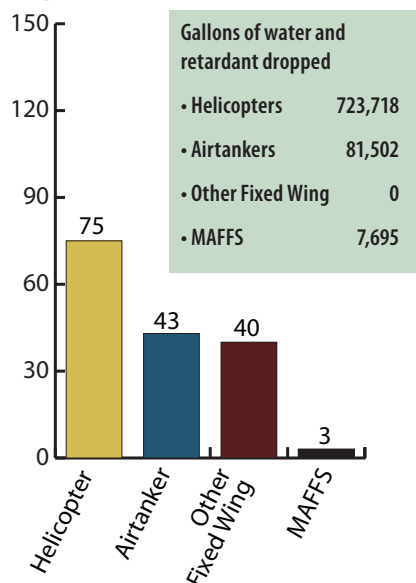
Line construction on fire perimeter and mop-up around structures is almost complete for the **Rice Fire**. Full containment of the fire is expected tomorrow as light precipitation aids mop-up operations. All portions of Fallbrook are opened to residents. Demobilization of excess resources continues.

The fire line is completed for the **Grass Valley Fire**, with effective mop-up of the perimeter progressing.

The **Slide Fire** reports progress containing the fire spread on the south and southwest flanks. Area closure orders remain in effect for a large area surrounding the Grass Valley and Slide Fires. Power, gas, and water companies work in fire areas to restore services. Coordinated efforts with cooperating agencies and utility companies for re-entry into the mandatory evacuation area continue.

At the **Ammo Fire**, evacuation orders are lifted for the camp and power is restored. Demobilization is planned for the next day.

■ Resources Committed: Aircraft, Flight Hours, October 27, 2007



A pair of trees frame a smoky sunset during the October siege.



WES SCHULTZ

The Fires: Day 8



Firefighters survey fire damage

Sunday, October 28, 2007

Predictive Services Morning Report:

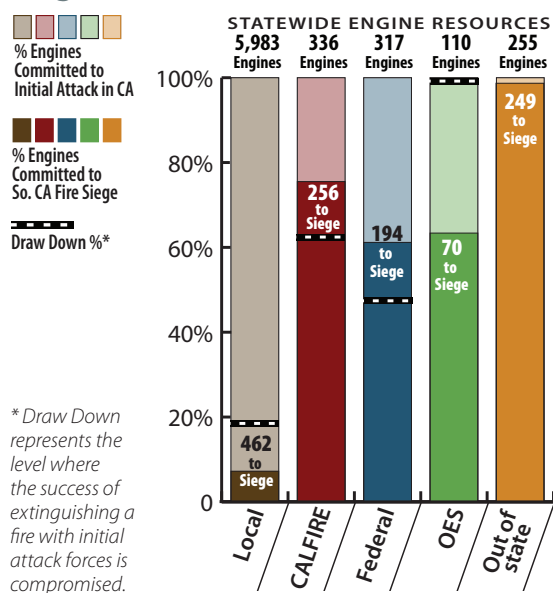
A ridge of high pressure over California will bring warmer temperatures and lower humidity to the region today. Temperatures will be around 10 degrees above normal, and humidity will be mainly between 15% and 30%. Winds will continue to be very light today.

Today's Events:

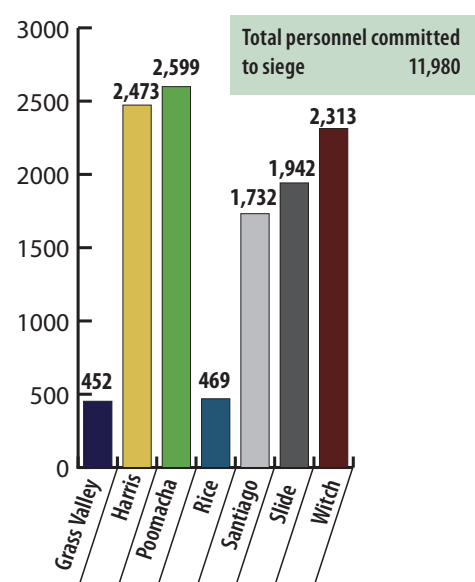
Direct line construction on the fire perimeter is nearly completed for the **Santiago Fire**, but threats to property and structures continue. Continued aircraft support is deemed critical. Fire behavior is moderate with creeping and some short runs when the fire aligns with fuels and topography. Structure protection remains in place in Silverado & Trabuco Canyons. A burn plan is approved for Silverado Canyon and remains an option for future use.

The **Poomacha Fire** experiences active backing fire north of Palomar divide, and moderate runs upslope in the interior of the burn. The DC-10, Martin Mars, six C-130 (MAFFS), and six heavy air tankers are working together to contain the spread of the fire. The estimated containment date is pushed back two days to October 31. Firefighters continue structure protection and perimeter control. Crews

Resources Committed: Engines, October 28, 2007



Resources Committed: Personnel, October 28, 2007



experience difficulties in mop-up in the Agua Tibia Wilderness. A complete re-entry of residents is expected by this evening.

There is minimal fire activity with no significant fire spread on the **Harris Fire**. To prevent future escape, significant mop-up is required in steep terrain with heavy fuels. Residents re-enter the fire area. Navy Seabees work contingency lines and assist in demobilization. The fire team reports excellent production by out-of-state crews.

With the **Witch Fire** 95% contained, the cities of San Diego, Poway and Escondido along with the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District transition out of Unified Command and serve as Agency Representatives. All communities are repopulated and San Diego Gas and Electric continues to restore utility services. Damage assessment and fire line suppression repair continues. Significant demobilization is under way.

Evacuation and closure orders remain in effect for the **Grass Valley** and **Slide** fire areas. However, mandatory evacuations are lifted east of Heaps Peak. Re-entry for Lake Arrowhead area is expected shortly. Power, gas, and water companies work in the fire area to restore services. Meanwhile, crews continue to mop-up and patrol residential areas with helicopter infrared (IR) to identify hot spots and prioritize mop-up.

The **Ammo Fire** is contained at 21,004 acres.

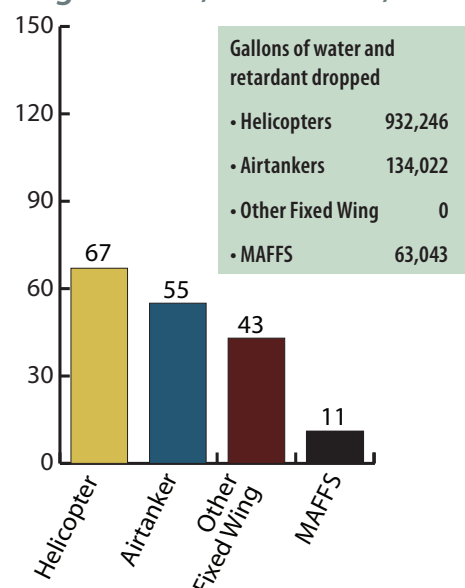
■ Tribal Task Force established to provide liaison and address concerns with impacted tribes in San Diego County.

■ Governor Schwarzenegger toured the local assistance center at Cuyamaca College.

■ Subject Matter Specialists from Planning, Logistics, Community Relations, Public Assistance and External Affairs deployed from the FEMA Joint Field Office in Pasadena to San Diego.

The California National Guard (CNG) has 2,388 personnel committed to supporting the siege. Since October 22, CNG has mobilized a total of 10 helicopters, helped deploy 6 C-130 aircraft with Modular Airborne Fire-fighting System (MAFFS), and coordinated airborne tactical reconnaissance aircraft. While two Air Guards were placed on standby for Search-and-Rescue, additional CNG resources provided security at evacuation centers at Del Mar Raceway and Qualcomm Park.

■ Resources Committed: Aircraft, Flight Hours, October 28, 2007



■ Flames subsided but smoky skies remained the norm throughout the week.

The Fires: Day 9

Monday, October 29, 2007

Predictive Services Morning Report:

A couple of weak low-pressure areas will move through Central California bringing much cooler temperatures and much higher humidity to the region through Wednesday. These weak low-pressure areas will also bring scattered showers mainly to Central California this afternoon through Wednesday. There will also be scattered thunderstorms over Central California this afternoon. Most Central California locations will receive less than a quarter-inch of rainfall, and locations over Southern California will receive little or no measurable rainfall through Wednesday. There will be gusty south-to-west winds over the mountains and deserts this afternoon.



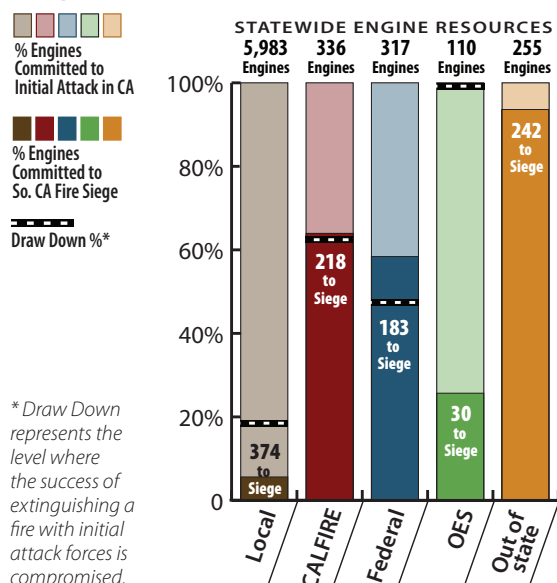
Many communities built with fire safe building practices passed the ultimate test by surviving the siege.

Today's Events:

The **Santiago Fire** continues to threaten structures and private property within the Silverado area. Direct line construction is chosen over burning out to limit the potential for long-term effects, in particular flooding and rock fall. Changing wind patterns and problematic fuel and topographic conditions have produced severe fire behavior during past several burning periods. Although fire behavior has moderated, a mild-to-moderate offshore wind event is forecast for the coming weekend. Continued aircraft support is considered critical.

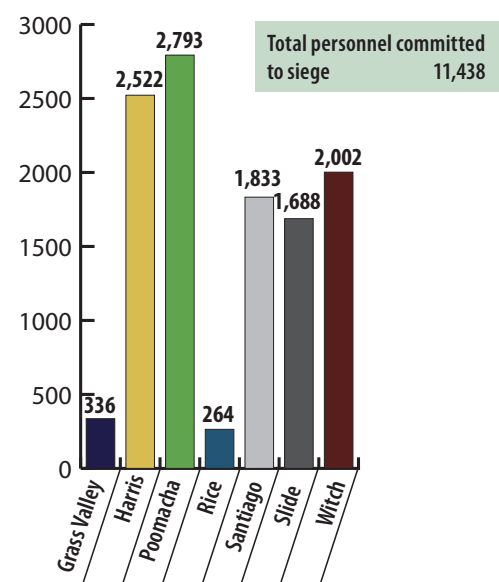
Resources Committed:

Engines, October 29, 2007



Resources Committed:

Personnel, October 29, 2007



■ State Superintendent of Public Instruction announced assistance and fiscal relief for schools affected by the wildfires.

The wind hampers efforts for a firing operation planned for the steep terrain in the north/northeast areas of the **Poomacha Fire**. Fire activity consists of a slow backing fire north of Palomar, divided with moderate runs upslope within the interior of the burn. Although bulldozer and hand line are complete around slop-overs, these areas are still of concern. Evacuation orders for

Palomar Community and the La Jolla Indian reservation areas are evaluated.

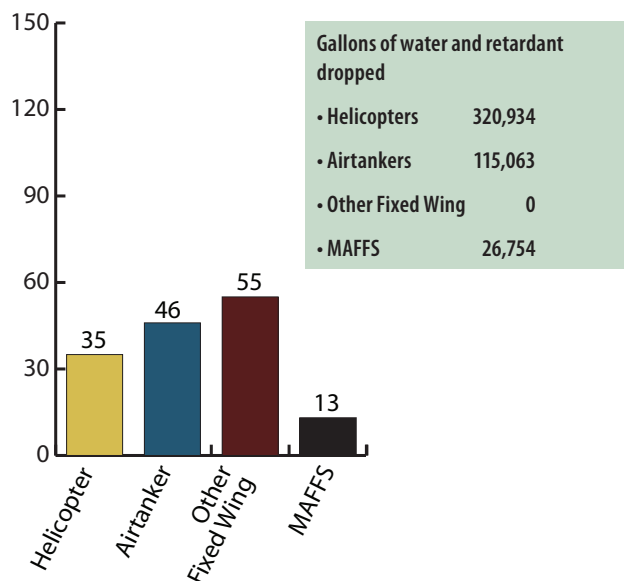
Line construction and improvements are nearly complete in all branches of the **Witch Fire**. San Diego Gas and Electric continues to restore utility service to affected areas. Damage assessment and fire line suppression repair are ongoing. Personnel from the cities of San Diego, Poway, Escondido, the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District and Heartland Fire Zone transition out of unified command to serve as Agency Representatives. Arrival of additional resources allows initial attack resources in San Diego County to return to their respective jurisdictions. Heavy demobilization occurs.

Crews on the **Slide Fire** continue to make good progress in closing the open fire line perimeter in the south/southeast areas of the fire. With 100% containment expected at the end of this operational period, the **Grass Valley Fire** prepares to transfer command to the Slide Fire incident management team. Demobilization of excess local resources continues.

Crews continue secondary searches, improvement of control lines, mop-up and patrol on the **Harris Fire**. Interpretation of infrared imagery continues to be used to identify hot spots and focus mop-up efforts. Inspection of affected structures and fire suppression rehabilitation needs continues. Excess resources are demobilized.



■ Resources Committed: Aircraft, Flight Hours, October 29, 2007



The Fires: Day 10

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Predictive Services Morning Report:

A weak Pacific trough will bring cooler temperatures and higher humidity to the region today. A ridge of high pressure will build into California from the Pacific Ocean bringing warmer temperatures and lower humidity Friday and Saturday.

Today's Events:

Good progress continues on the **Santiago Fire** with the completion of the remaining open fire line. The fire remains a threat to structures within the Silverado area, and evacuation orders are still in effect for Silverado Canyon. Meanwhile, residents are allowed to return to the communities of Williams, Modjeska, and Santiago Canyons. Containment is at 90%.

Again, conditions are not favorable to firing operations on the **Poomacha Fire**. There is minimal fire activity north of the Palomar Divide although slop-over potential still concerns firefighters. With aerial support, crews continue direct hand line construction on the north side of the fire to minimize impact to Aqua Tibia Wilderness and Palomar Mountain.

The **Witch Fire** reports progress on closing the last portions of open line. All residents have returned to evacuated communities.

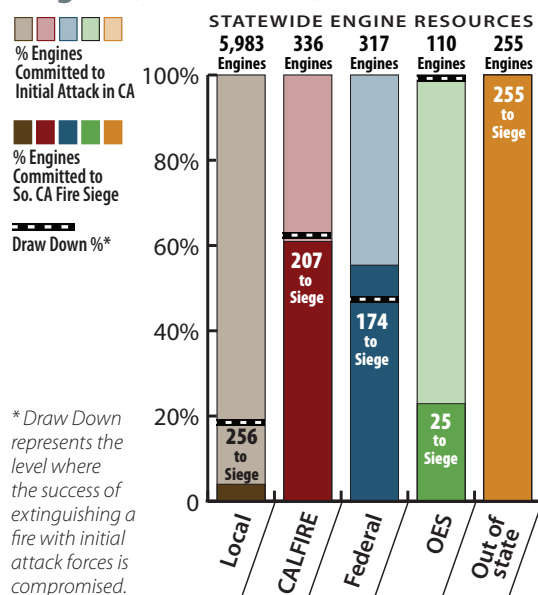
Full containment of the **Slide Fire** is predicted for evening.

■ Governor Schwarzenegger meets San Diego County local officials and discusses the state's ongoing response to the wildfires and actions needed for recovery.

The **Grass Valley Fire** is fully contained. Fire areas are opened to the public for residential site visits throughout the day. Plans are made to reopen Grass Valley area to residents on October 31.

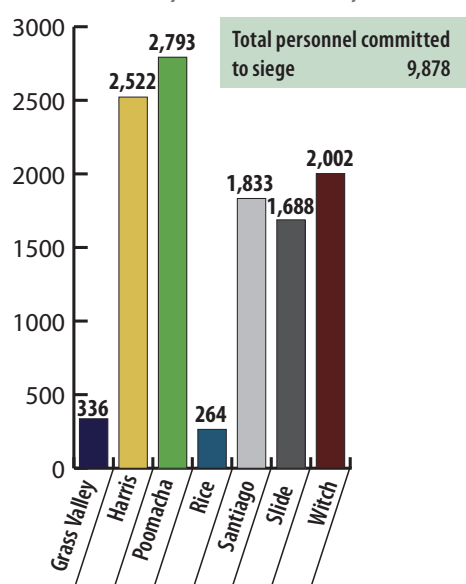
Resources Committed:

Engines, October 30, 2007



Resources Committed:

Personnel, October 30, 2007





A billboard welcoming people to San Pasqual Agricultural Preserve stands scorched by the roadside after fire. Inset shows the same billboard before the fire.

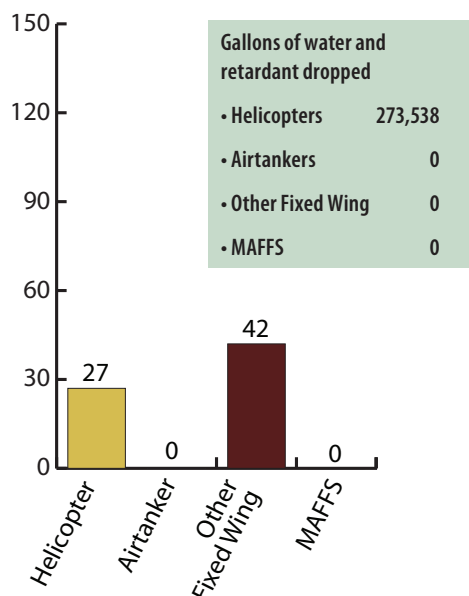


PR Gibbs

Voluntary re-entry into Lake Arrowhead is ongoing. The opening of roads and communities causes some traffic congestion in the area.

Although mop-up is still needed around some interior islands and the northwestern portion of the fire line, the **Harris Fire** reports 90% containment. Heavy fuels near the line still hold significant heat. Infrared interpretation continues to be used to identify hot spots and focus mop-up efforts. Fire suppression rehabilitation continues.

Resources Committed: Aircraft, Flight Hours, October 30, 2007



As the winds slow and fires are contained, resources are demobilized.

The Fires: Day 11

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Predictive Services Morning Report:

The back side (trailing edge) of a Pacific trough will bring near normal temperatures and humidity through Thursday. A strong ridge of high pressure will build into California from the Pacific Ocean bringing above normal temperatures and very low humidity to most of the region Friday through the middle of next week. There will be locally strong and gusty northeast-to-east winds over the mountains and below the canyons and passes of Southern California Saturday morning. Winds will be light Sunday through the middle of next week.

The Governor directed the California National Guard, CAL FIRE and Office of Emergency Services to proactively prepare for the forecasted return of Santa Ana winds.

Today's Events:

The **Santiago Fire** continues to threaten structures within the Silverado area. Residents are allowed to return to the communities of Williams, Modjeska, and Santiago Canyons. The evacuation order for Silverado Canyon remains in effect.

Crews on the **Poomacha Fire** continue construction of a direct hand line within the north part of the fire while mop-up and patrol progress in other areas. Highway 76 reopens. Operations and burn area rehabilitation are expected to continue into November with the transition of incident management from a state team to a federal team set for November 5.

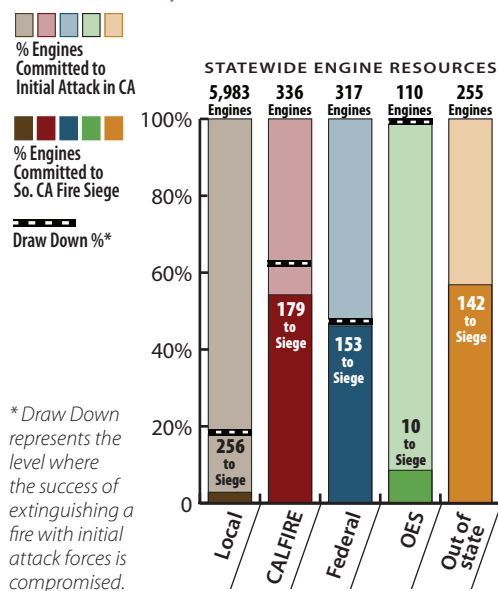
Good progress continues on the **Witch Fire** with full containment expected by evening.

Full containment of the **Slide Fire** is expected by evening.

The **Harris Fire** reports 100% containment. Extensive demobilization of excess resources occurs. Fire suppression rehabilitation continues.

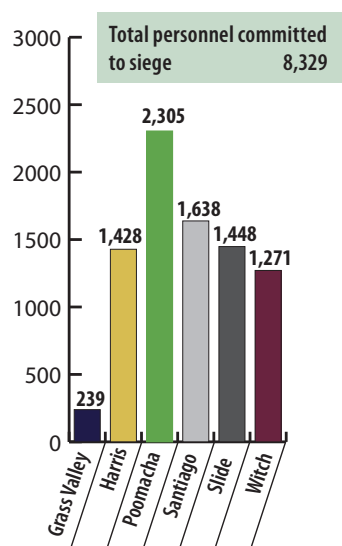
Resources Committed:

Engines,
October 31, 2007



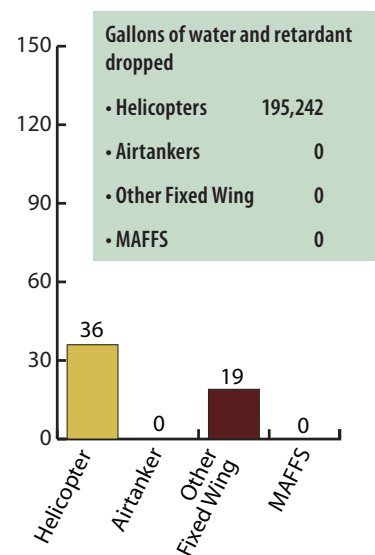
Resources Committed:

Personnel,
October 31, 2007



Resources Committed:

Aircraft, Flight Hours,
October 31, 2007



Aftermath

The fire siege of October 2007 will be known for the speed of its evolution.

On October 21, the first day of the siege, the Harris Fire in the southern part of San Diego County killed one resident, severely burned another and burned over a fire engine, requiring the crew to be airlifted to safety.

That same morning, 40 miles north of the Harris Fire, the Witch Fire began in the Witch Creek area. By noon it had charred 8,000 acres and was advancing into the same area that had been devastated by the Cedar Fire in 2003. Meanwhile, the Harris Fire had already burned 20,000 acres and was still growing.



A homeowner is rewarded for pre-fire preparation. While some neighboring homes were destroyed, the defensible space around this home aided in its survival.

From the very beginning, these fires were propelled by Santa Ana winds, clocked as high as 90 miles per hour. One gust on Laguna Peak north of Los Angeles was clocked at 112 miles per hour. Air tankers and helicopters were ineffective in the heavy winds, and at times were unable to fly in these extraordinarily adverse conditions.

By dawn of October 22, barely one day into the siege, new fires had ignited in Fallbrook, San Marcos and near the San Diego Wild Animal Park. Twenty thousand homes were without power. Qualcomm Stadium had opened as an evacuation center, and officials there were preparing for as many as 100,000 evacuees. By noon, October 22, the Witch Fire had jumped Interstate-15 and was burning in Poway. San Diego businesses, government offices, and schools began closing.

Soon, 17 significant fires and dozens of smaller ones were burning from Santa Barbara to the Mexican border. Major highways and surface streets were closed to traffic as residents began what would become the largest evacuation in California history. Officials believe as many as 900,000 people were displaced at the height of the emergency.

California Fire Siege Aftermath

If the rapid advancement of the fires was the news headline, then evacuation was the common theme. Hundreds of thousands of people moved out of the fire areas into hotels and evacuation centers. Many slept in their cars on the side of the road. Hundreds of people brought their pets with them.

These fires occurred in horse country, and many evacuees were moving livestock. People loaded up their horse trailers and headed to nearby fairgrounds hoping to find safe, empty stalls.

Governor Schwarzenegger visited several areas the evening of the second day, promising help to the displaced residents and calling for military support for the firefighters. California declared a state of emergency, and in Washington, D.C., President Bush declared a national disaster area.

The smoky haze from the fires was visible from space and health officials expressed concern about respiratory problems. State and local public health officials visited the evacuation centers and offered free flu shots. Mental health officials began to monitor the toll that stress was having on the emotional health of the evacuees, especially children who weren't able to go to school. Information on coping with disasters was widely distributed.

Some of the most emotional moments seemed to come when residents were allowed back into their neighborhoods only to see their homes in ruins.

Seventeen people lost their lives as a result of the siege. Ten were killed by the fires outright, three were killed while evacuating, and four died from other fire siege related causes. Though none were killed, more than 100 firefighters were injured. Of these, four were very seriously injured and two will require lengthy rehabilitation.

Although the fires of October 2003 were the worst fire siege in California's history, the effective response to the Fire Siege of 2007 set the record for the number of people who were safely evacuated and cared for by emergency responders and volunteers.

Considering the destruction of the fires, the disruption of people's lives, the damage to health and the loss of business and tourism, ultimately millions of people were impacted by these fires, directly or indirectly. Those impacts will be felt for years to come.



Given the scope of the siege, investigation, damage assessment and rehabilitation of wildlands will continue for years.

Epilogue

As the siege fires were put out and resources were demobilized, fire managers kept an eye on weather forecasts for the remainder of the season. In mid-November, the National Weather Service and Predictive Services began issuing forecasts for another Santa Ana wind event. The 2007 fire season was not over.

The **Corral Fire** in Malibu started on Saturday, November 24 from an illegal campfire near the mouth of Corral Canyon Cave. Winds up to 60 miles per hour and low relative humidity quickly spread the fire. In spite of pre-positioning and planning, the fire burned 4,901 acres, destroyed 53 homes and damaged another 35. Most of the damage occurred during the early hours of the fire in Latigo Canyon and the neighborhoods along Newell Road and Sea Breeze Drive. There were no civilian injuries reported, but seven firefighters were injured.

By late November, a major shift in the overall upper air pattern took place. Rain came to Southern California in December.



When the siege was over, the destruction to wildlands and personal property stood in smoldering contrast to the spectacular sunsets created by the smoky skies.

Fire Siege Coordination

Coordinating the firefighting efforts during a Southern California fire siege presents a challenge that is distinctly different from coordinating individual fires. These sieges are characterized by strong Santa Ana winds with many ignitions, including multiple large fires burning simultaneously in extremely dry, heavy fuels over steep terrain. New starts spread very quickly, shortening the time that firefighters can effectively contain the fires with initial attack forces. The large number of expanding fires quickly create multiple, immediate demands for available firefighting resources. Southern California fire sieges are also distinctive in the significant regional impact on people, property and natural resources in the extensive Wildland-Urban Interface.

This section describes the regional coordination of several management systems and technologies that were used during the 2007 siege, some for the first time, to support the multiple-agency response.

Pre-positioning and pre-fire attack planning took place due to wind predictions and drought conditions. Firefighters and other emergency service providers gather at a staging area.



Wes SCHULTZ

Remote Sensing

During the 2007 Southern California Fire Siege, regional chief officers augmented the established MAC intelligence function by activating a Situation Status Cell (Sit Stat Cell) at the Southern California Geographic Area Coordination Center level.

The Sit Stat Cell integrated remote sensing capabilities and geospatial operations across the geographic area, regardless of source, to provide direct support for on-the-ground incident response needs from Incident Command Teams, the GACC, and the State Operations Center (SOC) recovery missions. The Sit Stat Cell executed this function using a team of remote sensing specialists deployed to the Southern California GACC and a strategic analysis staff located at the SOC. The GACC team coordinated remote sensing aircraft mission tasking. The SOC team compiled, and analyzed the data to produce map based reports. These reports assisted in the orientation of crews and staff, and provided information on the operating area in support of firefighter and public safety. This coordinated effort resulted in one of the largest deployments of remote sensing and geospatial technologies for wildland firefighting.

The table at the right provides a description of the broad array of remote sensing systems that were used in support of the 2007 Fire Siege.

SYSTEM	SOURCE	CAPABILITY
RC-26 Full Motion Video	California National Guard (with assistance from Texas National Guard)	Night and day fire perimeter spotting in direct support of incident command teams
P-3 Full Motion Video	United States Navy (coordinated through United States Northern Command)	Night and day fire perimeter spotting in direct support of incident command teams
Civil Air Patrol	United States Air Force (coordinated through United States Northern Command)	Digital imagery of burn areas for critical infrastructure assessment and fire behavior analysis
Ikhana Unmanned Aerial Vehicle	NASA and the National Interagency Fire Center	Night and day multispectral and thermal mapping of fire and damage areas
U-2	United States Air Force (coordinated through United States Northern Command)	High resolution imagery of operations area (Southern California)
Global Hawk Unmanned Aerial Vehicle	United States Air Force (coordinated through United States Northern Command)	Night and day digital infrared imagery of fire perimeters and threatened land/structures
National Infrared Operations Support (Cessna Citation)	National Interagency Fire Center	Night and day thermal mapping of fire areas
Fire Mapper	USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station	Night and day multi-spectral and thermal mapping of fire areas
Commercial Satellite Imagery	Coordinated by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. Data delivered by Nevada National Guard (Eagle Vision) and Army Strategic Command (coordinated through United States Northern Command)	Broad-area high resolution and color imagery of operations area

Decision Science

Federal fire analysts located at the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Regional Office provided regional chief officers and incident commanders with a decision support product known as the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS). They produced map products for ten of the siege fires: the Ammo, Buckweed, Grass Valley, Harris, Poomacha, Ranch, Santiago, Sedgewick, Slide, and Witch.

WFDSS is a web-based application that utilizes fire behavior modeling, economic principles, and information technology to develop probabilities of potential fire spread and impacts. The two main components are Fire Spread Probability (FSPro) and the Rapid Assessment of Values at Risk (RAVAR). FSPro calculates and maps the probability of fire spread within a specific time, based on fuel, topography and weather conditions. RAVAR then uses that spread probability information to estimate the impact of the fire on primary-resource values in the path of a fire.

Fire-Cause Investigations

The wildland firefighting agencies conduct a cause-and-origin investigation for every wildland fire. Fire prevention bureau chiefs use this information to develop programs to prevent future ignitions, and as supporting documentation for legal actions against those who intentionally or negligently cause a fire. Fire-cause investigators must conduct their investigations quickly before firefighting actions or other activities destroys evidence at the origin of the fire.

The number of new fires during the siege quickly exceeded the investigation capacity of the various firefighting agencies. In response to the growing workload, regional law enforcement coordinators established a regional cause and origin investigation group to support investigation efforts on all fires on State Responsibility Area (SRA) in the Southern California counties. Investigators from throughout California assembled at OSCC. USFS and CAL FIRE investigation leaders coordinated efforts and assigned

investigation responsibilities for fires that burned across federal and state direct protection area. Investigators worked as a team during the investigation of these multi-jurisdiction incidents.

FEMA enacted Homeland Security Presidential Directive Five (HSPD5) ESF#13 (Public Safety and Security) because investigators determined that one of the fires was caused by arson. Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents were then assigned to investigative support. CAL FIRE and the Orange County Sheriff's Department provided additional investigators and technical support.

CAL FIRE's chief law enforcement officer joined the team at the OSCC to establish communication links between the incident investigators and the CAL FIRE director, approve information releases to the media, and establish consultation link with the Deputy Attorney General assigned to cases that would go to trial.

Surge Capacity

With predictions of severe fire weather, regional fire chiefs anticipated a need to build firefighting resource depth in Southern California. Local, state, and federal authorities have been established and systems designed to facilitate the movement of resources. Regional fire chiefs moved firefighters to Southern California before the siege began. This movement of resources continued and expanded during the early stages of the siege. Eventually the siege became a national mobilization and assistance was also provided by Mexico, sending bomberos (firefighters) from Tijuana and Tecate.

The Federal Department of Homeland Security's National Response Plan uses Emergency Support Functions (ESF) as the primary mechanism to organize and provide assistance to local and state governments and tribal agencies. The purpose of the ESF is to provide the greatest possible access to the capabilities of the federal government, regardless of agency. The Stafford Act authorizes FEMA, a function of the Department of Homeland Security, to coordinate support from across the federal agencies and certain non-government organizations. FEMA invokes one or more of the 15 ESFs to funnel resources to disasters and emergencies. During an ESF-4 declaration, the US Forest Service is the lead agency, and is tasked with coordinating the federally activated resources.

On October 22, Governor Schwarzenegger requested a federal emergency declaration for the Southern California fire siege and FEMA activated ESF-4. On October 24, President Bush signed Disaster



WES SCHULTZ



In addition to the use of numerous out-of-state resources, the October Siege utilized the Bomberos from Tijuana, Mexico.

Declaration 1731-DR-CA and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services requested that FEMA provide 125 strike teams of engines, 300 overhead personnel, and other resources. FEMA processed the request and the resources were on scene by October 27.

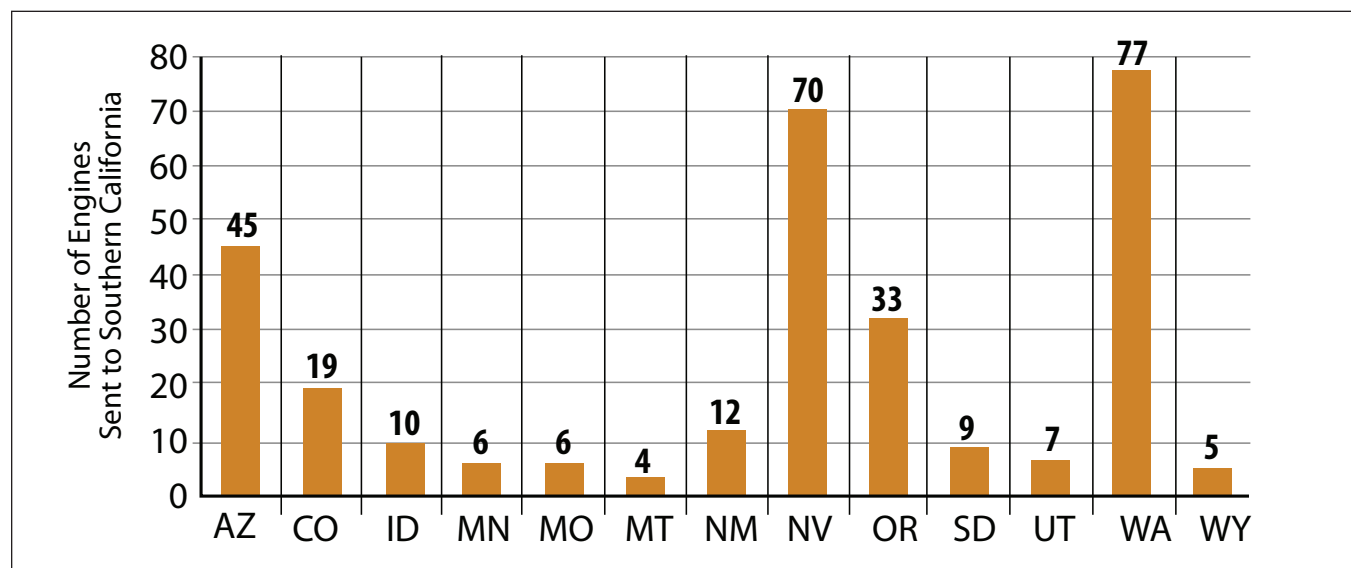
The Emergency Managers Assistance Compact (EMAC) is a congressionally ratified organization that gives form and substance to mutual aid between member states. EMAC has resolved issues of liability and reimbursement so that a state suffering a disaster can request and receive assistance from other member states quickly and efficiently. Through standard operating procedures and reimbursement guidelines, states can request and receive needed resources in a timely manner.

Out-of-state engines played a vital role in assisting the local, state and federal firefighters already engaged on the Southern California fire siege. This siege saw the first activation of resources through the EMAC compact. On October 23, the Office of Emergency Services activated the Emergency Managers Assistance Compact (EMAC) and requested 50 strike teams of engines from EMAC member states. Out-of-state resources were able to integrate easily with forces already engaged in the firefight. Engine crews assisted not only on the fireline, but also staffed empty stations whose local crews were working on siege fires.

On October 26, a federal management team was assigned to the newly established FEMA Mobilization Center at the Chino Airport. Resources arrived at the Mobilization Center through several dispatching channels and funding sources, including FEMA, EMAC, California's master mutual aid system, and other state and federal resource ordering processes. Although the original assignment was to establish a Mobilization Center to provide support for incoming FEMA resources as they were being moved to incidents, the mission grew to encompass a full-range mobilization-and-staging area. Within hours, there were over 700 firefighting resources at the center, and the numbers continued to increase the following day.

The following chart shows the number of out-of-state engines, by state. The chart includes resources arriving prior to October 26 that went directly to incidents, as well as those arriving from October 26 to 31 that were assigned to incidents through the FEMA Mobilization.

Out-of-state Resources Engines sent to siege by state



Information and the Media

Managing the tremendous flow of information during a major siege can be a daunting task. Firefighting agencies had quickly realized that a well coordinated, multi-agency, large-fire strategy would be required to address the large number of rapidly developing region-wide disasters impacting millions of Californians. Based on the area-wide magnitude of this developing disaster, news media coverage was immediately intense. Local, regional, and national print, broadcast, and electronic media became engaged in twenty-four hour disaster news coverage. One vital element of this strategy included the agencies' ability to deliver clear, accurate, and timely information to the public and news media. Incident commanders immediately assign information officer responsibilities as fires grow to major proportions.

On October 23, regional fire chiefs organized a joint information center (JIC) to provide consistent emergency information from the incident management teams to the various government agencies and the media. Operational and sensitive issues were discussed with executive leadership. The JIC Information Officer's task was to support incident information functions and ensure that accurate and timely incident information was distributed to the affected public, agency administrators, and elected officials, while serving as a Southern California regional point of contact for the state and national Joint Information Centers. The Southern Region JIC unified and coordinated information flow on the large and developing incidents



The siege was covered in the news at local, national and international levels. From left, clockwise; Katie Couric, CBS Evening News; Geraldo Rivera, Fox News; and Anderson Cooper, CNN.

An untouched home in the background stands in contrast to the destruction of neighboring properties.



KEVIN KEY

to support Area Command information needs. The JIC monitored news media coverage of the disaster to ensure accuracy of disseminated information and consistency of key messages at all levels and across all involved agencies.

The JIC ensured that disseminated information was accurate, timely, and met the needs of the member agencies and the public, as well as the print, broadcast and electronic news media. The JIC handled more than 400 local, regional, national, and international print, television, and radio news media contacts during the period of operation from October 23 to November 11. International news contacts included media from several countries including England, Japan, Budapest, Argentina, and Belgium.

The JIC developed and observed several operational protocols to provide for consistent information management during the siege. Federal and state agencies agreed to use a standard methodology and source (209 snapshot) to ensure consistency for daily operational period update, daily situational status and resources (2003 Blue Ribbon Commission recommendation). Working with the Intelligence Unit, the JIC reconciled and disseminated the 209 snapshot and incident summary to federal and state agencies and each incident command team twice daily at 0700 and 1900 hours.

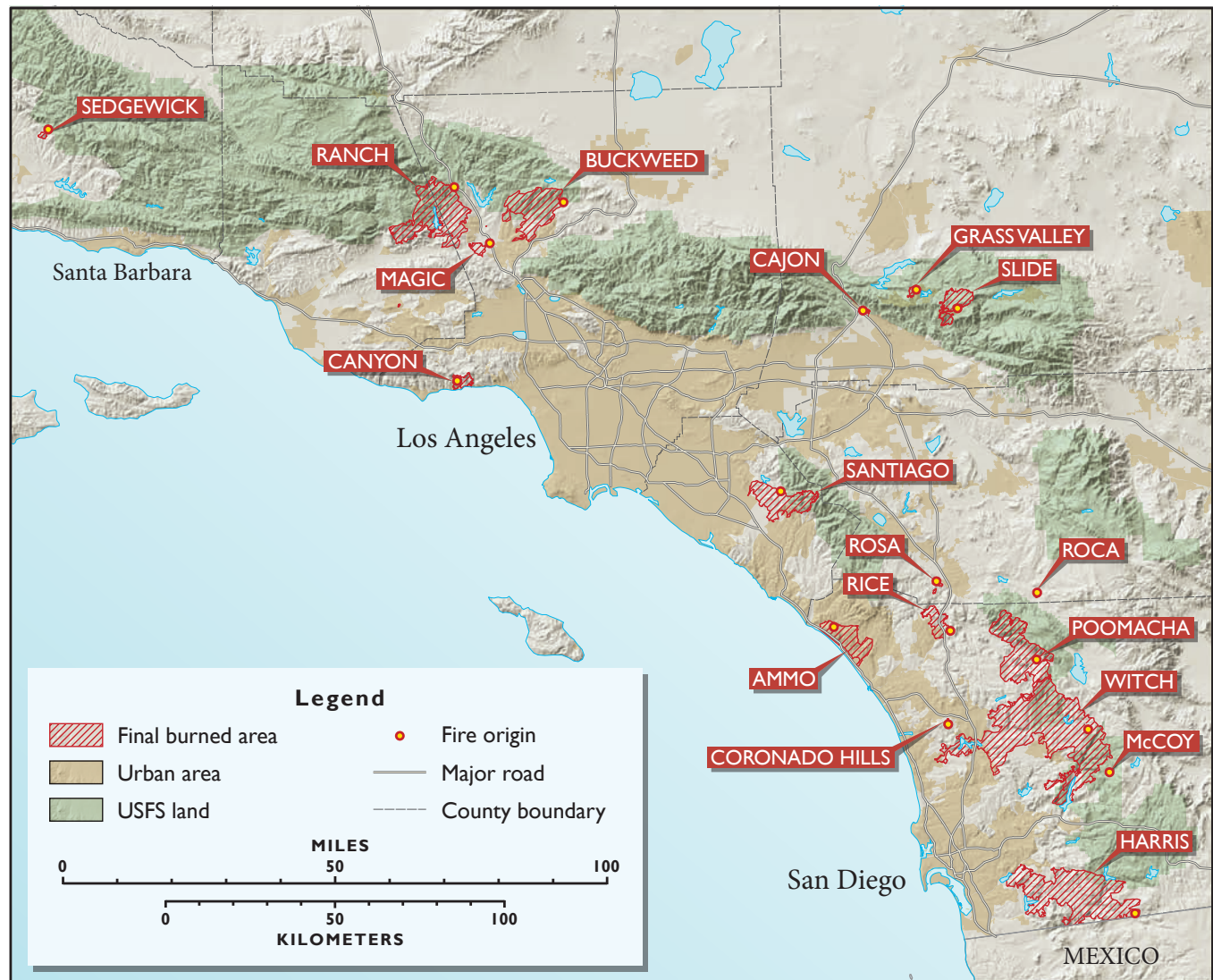
Daily conference calls were utilized to effectively communicate issues and processes with Area Command, San Diego County JIC, State Operations Center-JIC (SOC-JIC), National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), Federal Emergency Management Agency-Joint Field Office (FEMA-JFO), National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC), and National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO).

OES supplied Governor's talking points to the JIC. This information was disseminated to personnel and agencies participating in the distribution of incident related information. JIC personnel fielded media inquiries related to incident/resource status, aircraft utilization, pre-deployment of assets, MAC operations, command and control function at South Ops, defensible space, building construction materials and standards, and state and federal emergency management practices, emerging technologies, real-time digital imaging, and advanced mapping technologies.

The JIC provided support for dignitary visits to South Ops, including research and preparation of briefing packages, researched background material and responded to requests for information related to 2003 fire siege and Blue Ribbon Commission findings and recommendations. JIC PIOs conducted television, radio, and print interviews at South Ops, and in the field, and facilitated media requests for "feature" stories.

The JIC developed proactive, strategic messages for dissemination through news releases and/or use at agency executive levels and/or internal briefings for lead agencies and the Governor's office. The JIC established and maintained daily contact with PIOs on twenty-two incidents, ensuring coordination, consistency, and continuity of message dissemination, and provided support for each incident's information operation.

Appendix I: Statistical Information



A NASA satellite captured this image of the siege in progress on October 22. The strong off-shore progress of the smoke plumes illustrate the strong winds that hampered suppression efforts. Areas indicated in red have been digitally added to show fire perimeters.



Incident Starts and Duration

Containment Percentages **Start** 0-39% 40-59% 60-79% 80-99% 100%

Incident	10/20	10/21	10/22	10/23	10/24	10/25	10/26	10/27	10/28	10/29	10/30	10/31
Ranch	START	0-39%	0-39%	0-39%	40-59%	80-99%	80-99%	80-99%	80-99%	80-99%	100%	
Canyon		START	0-39%	80-99%	80-99%	100%						
Sedgewick		START	80-99%	100%								
Buckweed		START	0-39%	60-79%	100%							
Harris		START	0-39%	0-39%	0-39%	0-39%	0-39%	60-79%	60-79%	80-99%	80-99%	100%
Witch		START	40-59%	40-59%	40-59%	40-59%	40-59%	60-79%	80-99%	80-99%	80-99%	100%
Santiago		START	0-39%	0-39%	0-39%	0-39%	0-39%	40-59%	60-79%	60-79%	80-99%	80-99%
Roca		START	100%									
Coronado Hills			START 100%									
Magic			START	0-39%	100%							
Rice			START	0-39%	0-39%	40-59%	60-79%	80-99%	100%			
Rosa			START	60-79%	100%							
Grass Valley				START	0-39%	0-39%	60-79%	60-79%	80-99%	80-99%	100%	
Slide				START	0-39%	0-39%	0-39%	60-79%	80-99%	80-99%	80-99%	100%
Ammo				START	0-39%	40-59%	80-99%	80-99%	100%			
Poomacha				START	0-39%	0-39%	0-39%	40-59%	40-59%	60-79%	60-79%	80-99%

Daily Resource & Acreage Summary

Date	10/20	10/21	10/22	10/23	10/24	10/25	10/26	10/27	10/28	10/29	10/30	10/31
Engines		531	909	1,195	1,288	1,333	1,542	1,458	1,169	1,028	732	589
Personnel		3,793	6,460	8,417	11,750	11,785	12,703	12,969	11,980	11,438	9,878	8,329
Acreage		31,195	267,661	414,564	461,462	487,106	504,473	507,677	516,938	517,367	517,421	517,937

Southern California Fire Siege Summary, 2007

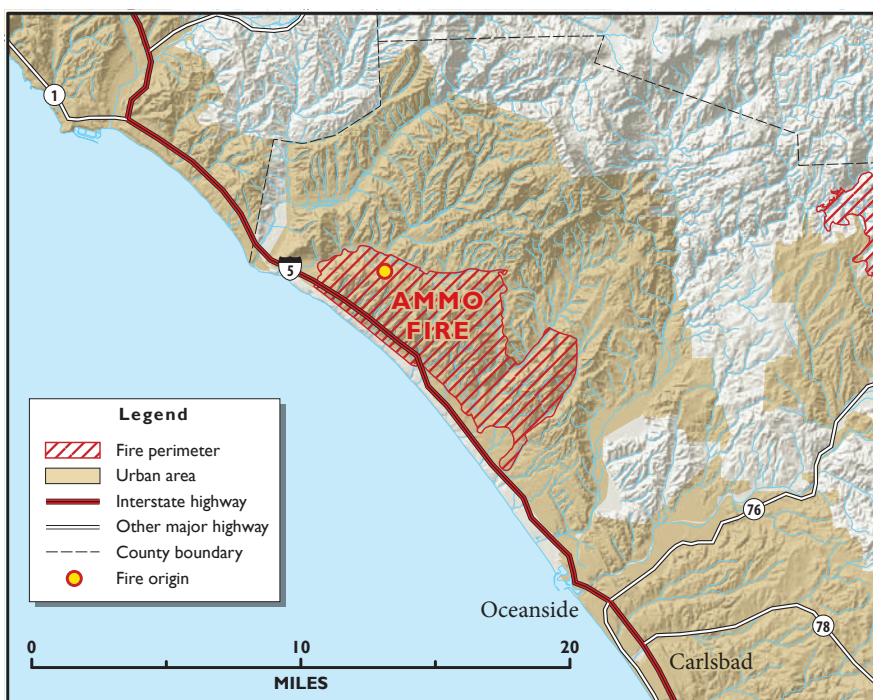
Incident	Acreage	Engines	Helicopters	Water/Retardant Gallons Dropped	Structures Destroyed	Structures Damaged	Fatalities	Firefighter Injuries	USFS Preliminary Costs*	CAL FIRE Est. Costs*
Ammo	21,004	49	8	104,740	0	0	0	6	\$35,500	\$708,047
Buckweed	38,356	144	5	409,100	63	30	0	1	\$5,810,000	\$2,135,148
Canyon	4,521	247	13	925,826	8	14	0	3	\$109,400	\$5,846,256
Coronado Hills	250	23	0	0	2	0	0	0	\$16,500	---
Grass Valley	1,247	109	3	207,256	178	22	0	1	\$4,900,000	\$767,330
Harris	90,440	219	26	2,427,947	373	259	8	40	\$5,030,000	\$21,157,453
Magic	2,824	60	5	147,514	0	0	0	0	\$125,000	\$900,196
Poomacha	49,410	164	13	1,581,726	217	12	0	13	\$6,842,500	\$19,368,014
Ranch	58,401	145	6	86,214	10	2	0	8	\$9,945,000	\$3,031,397
Rice	9,472	112	9	457,509	248	0	0	6	---	\$6,757,077
Roca	270	37	0	3,200	1	1	0	1	---	\$358,267
Rosa	411	34	0	0	2	0	0	0	\$59,850	\$670,486
Santiago	28,400	276	15	1,986,789	26	20	0	13	\$10,325,000	\$10,509,353
Sedgewick	710	26	5	207,191	0	0	0	0	\$3,465	\$1,053,945
Slide	12,759	321	13	1,305,527	315	0	0	8	\$13,545,000	\$1,771,997
Witch	197,990	365	18	787,705	1,624	103	2	40	\$5,393,500	\$17,792,887
TOTALS					3,069	463	10	140	\$62,124,215	\$92,827,853

* Estimated firefighting costs only. This figure does not include other emergency related costs such as evacuations, shelters, law enforcement, etc.

Appendix II: Incident Fire Summaries

Ammo Fire

- **Incident#:** MCP-001111
- **County:** San Diego
- **Agencies in Command:** Camp Pendleton
Marine Corps, CAL FIRE
- **Start Report Date:** October 23, 2007
- **Containment Date:** October 28, 2007
- **Total Acres:** 21,004
- **Direct Fire Suppression Cost:***
US Forest Service \$35,500
CAL FIRE \$708,047
- **Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 225
- **Structures Destroyed:** 0
- **Structures Damaged:** 0
- **Firefighters Injured:** 6
- **Fatalities:** 0
- **Fuels:** Chaparral
- **Cause:** Undetermined



The Ammo Fire was reported October 23, 2007 on Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base.

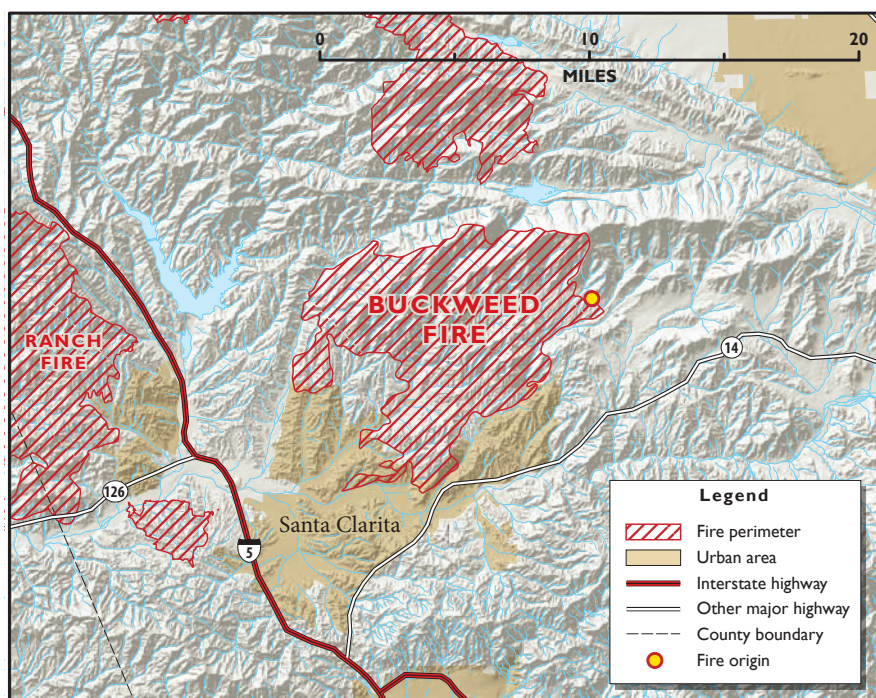
Military barracks, high voltage power grid lines originating from San Onofre Power Plant, and a communications site (repeater) for several agencies housed on San Onofre Peak, were threatened. The wind blown fire burned in heavy fuels over steep terrain. During the morning of October 24, 7,500 acres had burned, and the fire was 50% contained. Interstate-5 southbound was closed at Basilone, and northbound at Las Pulgas due to smoke and downed power lines. The fire escaped containment on the south flank, spreading southwest and parallel to Interstate-5. By afternoon the fire spotted across Interstate-5. While there was no threat to the nearby San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant, there were sporadic power outages in Camp Pendleton, and the Metro Link Rail line was temporarily shut down. The fire grew to 15,000 acres on October 25, and to over 21,000 acres by October 26. On October 27, the fire was 90% contained, evacuation orders were lifted, and power was restored to all affected areas of the camp.

The Ammo Fire was 100% contained on October 28, 2007.

*Figures shown reflect direct suppression cost estimates by stated agency. Other federal, state and local agency costs are not included. Additional expenses not related to direct suppression (rehabilitation, agency overhead, etc.) are not included.

Buckweed

- **Incident#:** LAC-07232185
- **County:** Los Angeles
- **Agencies in Unified Command:** Los Angeles County Fire Department, USFS
- **Start Report Date:** October 21, 2007
- **Containment Date:** October 24, 2007
- **Total Acres:** 38,356
- **Direct Fire Suppression Cost:***
US Forest Service \$5,810,000
CAL FIRE \$2,135,148
- **Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 1,157
- **Structures Destroyed:** 63
- **Structures Damaged:** 30
- **Firefighters Injured:** 1
- **Fatalities:** 0
- **Fuels:** Chaparral, mixed brush and grass
- **Cause:** Undetermined



The Buckweed Fire was reported near Mint Canyon Road and Sierra Highway at 12:55 p.m. on October 21, 2007.

It was rapidly spread by strong, gusty Santa Ana winds. By 4:30 p.m., about 2,000 acres had burned, Sierra Highway and many other roads were closed, and the fire was moving toward the city of Santa Clarita. At 5:43 p.m. the fire was reported to be about 10,000 acres, numerous structures had been destroyed, and another 200 were threatened. Evacuations were in progress for upper Bouquet Canyon, San Francisquito Canyon, and Green Valley areas. Evacuation centers were established at Hart High School, Saugus High School, Crown Valley Middle School, and Meadowlark School.

As of 8:25 a.m., on October 22, the Santa Ana winds continued. The area had burned nearly 30,000 acres, and at least 25 structures had destroyed. As the fire burned toward the Magic Mountain area of Santa Clarita, evacuations continued and now included Vasquez Canyon, Copperhill, and areas up to Spunky Canyon. A total of 3,800 residences as well as major electrical transmission lines were threatened. The L.A. County Sheriff, and Animal Control coordinated animal evacuations. Only residents were allowed into the evacuation areas. Both the Saugus Union School District and the Castaic School District cancelled classes. The incident exceeded capabilities of available firefighting resources.

By 2:00 p.m. the burn area exceeded 35,000 acres. It was estimated that 15,000 people were evacuated from 5,500 homes. The south flank slowed significantly when it ran into a sub-division surrounded by a greenbelt. The west flank held in San Francisquito Canyon. As winds eased later that afternoon, the fire spread slowed, containment lines held, containment increased and the threat to the communities diminished. It was noted that there were impacts to archeological sites along the service road to Drinkwater Reservoir and along Del Sur Ridge, and also that fires threatened the endangered the Red Legged frog, Arroyo toad and Stickleback fish. At 5:45 pm, conditions had improved, evacuations were lifted and residents were allowed return.

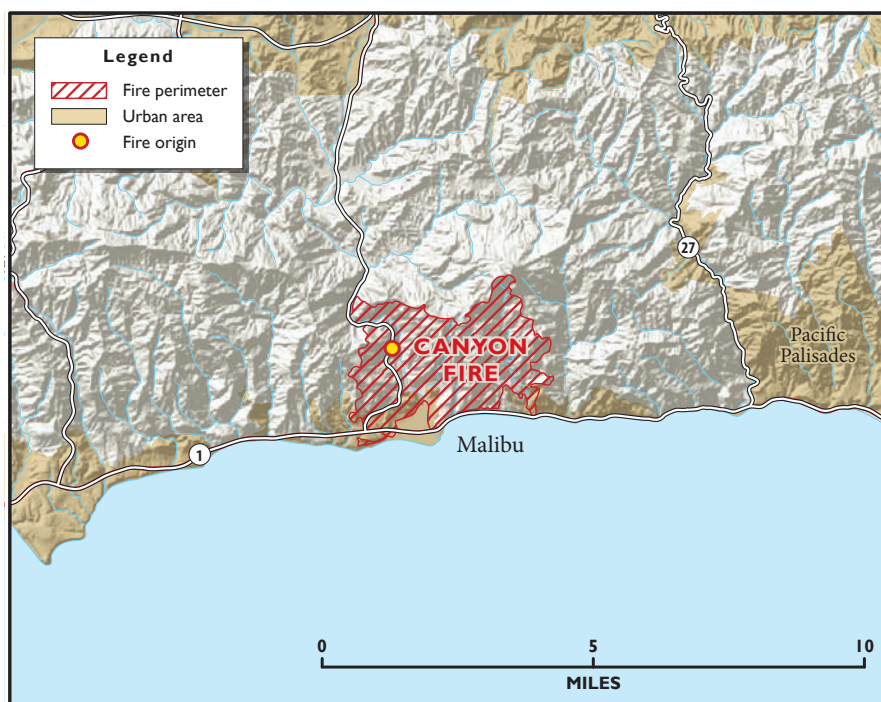
By 6:00 p.m. on October 23, containment was at 80%, and mop-up, patrol, and containment line improvement were the main focuses.

Both the Buckweed and nearby Magic Fires were 100% contained on October 24, 2007.

**Figures shown reflect direct suppression cost estimates by stated agency. Other federal, state and local agency costs are not included. Additional expenses not related to direct suppression (rehabilitation, agency overhead, etc.) are not included.*

Canyon

- **Incident#:** LAC-07231849
- **County:** Los Angeles
- **Agency in Command:** Los Angeles County Fire Department
- **Start Report Date:** October 21, 2007
- **Containment Date:** October 25, 2007
- **Total Acres:** 4,521
- **Direct Fire Suppression Cost:***
 - US Forest Service \$109,400
 - CAL FIRE \$5,846,256
- **Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 1,765
- **Structures Destroyed:** 8
- **Structures Damaged:** 14
- **Firefighters Injured:** 3
- **Fatalities:** 0
- **Fuels:** Chaparral
- **Cause:** Power line



The Canyon Fire was reported at 4:55 a.m. on October 21, 2007, north of the Pacific Coast Highway near the community of Malibu, in Los Angeles County.

The wind-driven fire rapidly spread toward houses. By 6:30 a.m. the fire reached 500 acres following its historical footprint, burning east up Malibu Canyon, and west down-canyon into Malibu. By 9:30 a.m. the communities of Pepperdine & Piuma Canyon were evacuated, and over 200 homes were threatened. Three homes, one church, and two commercial buildings were destroyed and, one home was reported damaged.

By the end of the day 1,150 personnel were assigned to the fire, which had reached 2,200 acres, and was only 10% contained. There was a loss of electrical infrastructure over a large area of the Malibu coast. The Pacific Coast Highway was closed between Topanga Canyon and Kanan-Dune Rd; Malibu Canyon Road was closed between the Pacific Coast Highway and Piuma Rd. Evacuation centers were established at Agoura and Palisades High Schools. School closures were issued for October 22 at Malibu High School, Webster, Point Dume, Cabrillo, and Topanga Elementary Schools. The fire was considered to have a strong potential to move through high value residential and commercial properties, and historical sites. By the end of the first day, fire lines were holding, but there was concern over predictions of increased winds.

During the morning of October 22, winds were driving the fire toward Carbon Mesa and Sweetwater Mesa. Mandatory evacuations were in effect, and there were massive structure protection efforts in the Palm Canyon and Cross Creek areas. The fire headed northeast toward the Rambler Pacifica area. By 10:00 p.m., 3,800 acres were burning, 900 structures were threatened, and six residences and two commercial buildings had been destroyed. Nine other residences and five commercial buildings were damaged and containment was down to 8%. Winds and topography caused channeling down the Malibu canyons, and electrical power was lost over a large area of the Malibu coast.

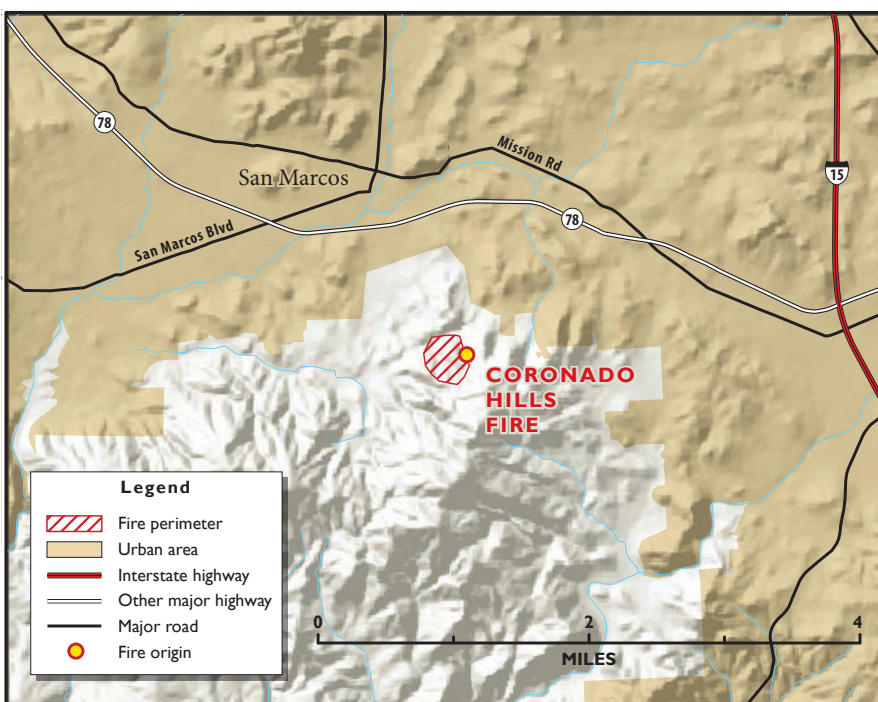
By the morning of October 23, the area burned had reached 4,400 acres. Although the winds decreased and firefighting efforts through the night were effective, containment stood at only 15% and several hundred structures were still considered threatened. Favorable weather conditions that evening enabled firefighters to hold the fire at Las Flores Ridge. Containment was at 75% and operations moved to extensive mop up. Demobilization of significant number of resources began.

The Canyon fire was 100% contained at 11:00 a.m. on October 25, 2007.

**Figures shown reflect direct suppression cost estimates by stated agency. Other federal, state and local agency costs are not included. Additional expenses not related to direct suppression (rehabilitation, agency overhead, etc.) are not included.*

Coronado Hills

- **Incident#:** 20070005532
- **County:** San Diego County
- **Agency in Command:** San Marcos Fire Department
- **Start Report Date:** October 22, 2007
- **Containment Date:** October 22, 2007
- **Total Acres:** 250
- **Direct Fire Suppression Cost:***
US Forest Service -
CAL FIRE -
- **Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 77
- **Structures Destroyed:** 2
- **Structures Damaged:** 0
- **Firefighters Injured:** 0
- **Fatalities:** 0
- **Fuels:** Chaparral
- **Cause:** Undetermined



The Coronado Hills Fire was reported at 1:46 a.m. on October 22, off of Atterbury Drive, south of the campus of California State University, San Marcos.

This fast moving fire grew to 300 acres, driven by Santa Ana winds gusting to 40 miles per hour. By 9:30 a.m., multiple structures had been destroyed. Fire was threatening the communities of Discovery Hills, Coronado Hills, and San Elijo Hills, Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove, and evacuations were in progress. Resources committed included 23 engines, a water tender, and three chief officers, for a total of 77 personnel.

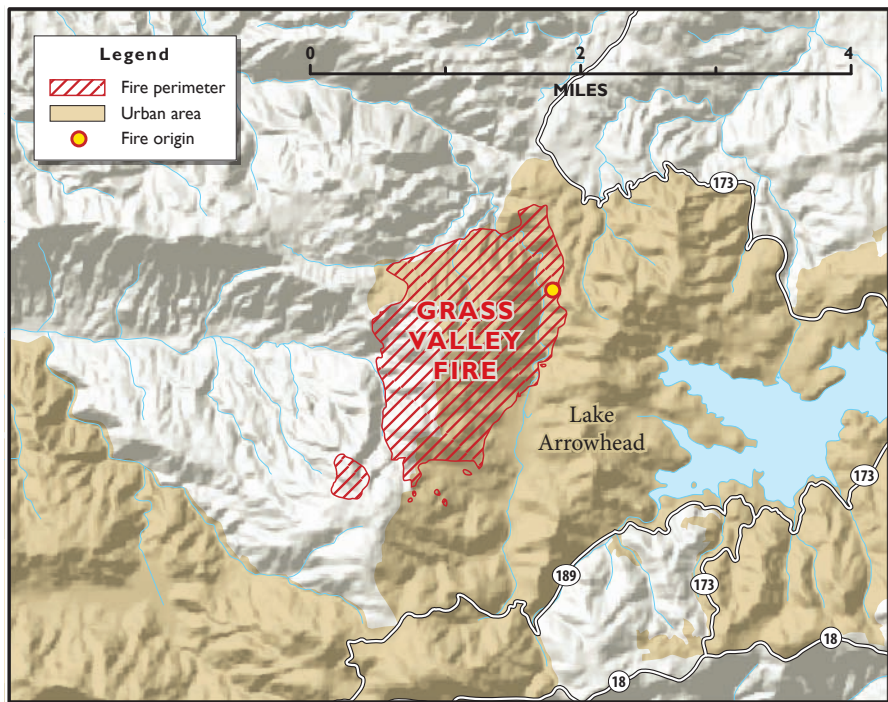
By 12:40 p.m. containment was still at 0%, multiple structures had been destroyed in Discover Hills and San Marcos and the flames were heading toward Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove, pushed by 40 mile per hour winds.

The aggressive initial attack paid off, and the Coronado Hills Fire was 100% contained at 3:25 p.m. on the same day it started.

**Figures shown reflect direct suppression cost estimates by stated agency. Other federal, state and local agency costs are not included. Additional expenses not related to direct suppression (rehabilitation, agency overhead, etc.) are not included.*

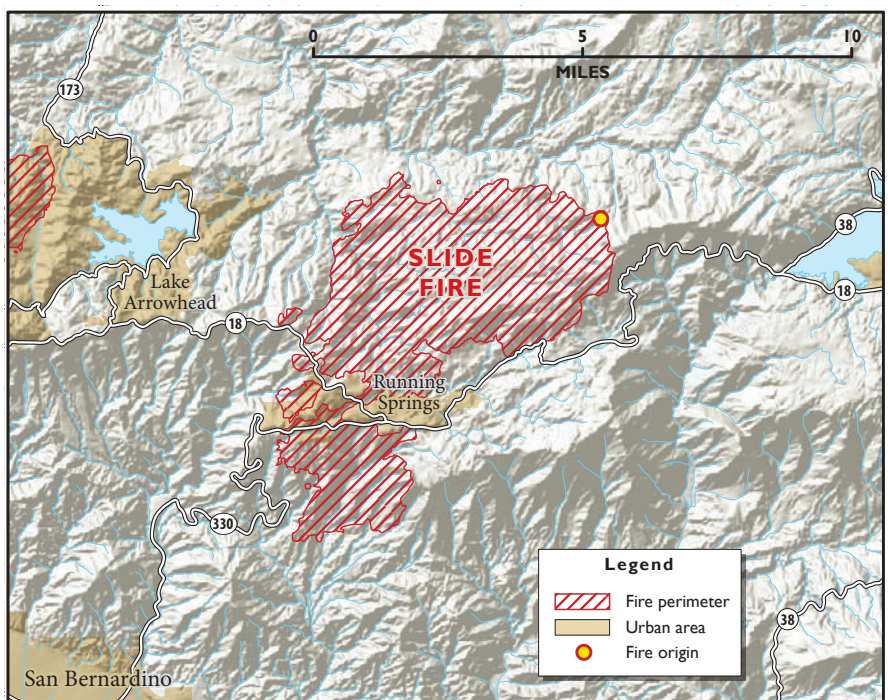
Grass Valley

- **Incident#:** BDF-10566
- **County:** San Bernardino
- **Agencies in Command:** USFS, San Bernardino County Fire, San Bernardino County Sheriff
- **Start Report Date:** October 22, 2007
- **Containment Date:** October 29, 2007
- **Total Acres:** 1,247
- **Direct Fire Suppression Cost:***
US Forest Service \$4,900,000
CAL FIRE \$767,330
- **Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 1,051
- **Structures Destroyed:** 178
- **Structures Damaged:** 22
- **Firefighters Injured:** 1
- **Fatalities:** 0
- **Fuels:** Timber
- **Cause:** Power lines



Slide

- **Incident#:** BDF-10570
- **County:** San Bernardino
- **Agencies in Command:** USFS, San Bernardino County Fire, San Bernardino County Sheriff, Running Springs Fire Department
- **Start Report Date:** October 22, 2007
- **Containment Date:** October 31, 2007
- **Total Acres:** 12,759
- **Direct Fire Suppression Cost:***
US Forest Service \$13,545,000
CAL FIRE \$1,771,997
- **Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 2,129
- **Structures Destroyed:** 315
- **Structures Damaged:** 0
- **Firefighters Injured:** 8
- **Fatalities:** 0
- **Fuels:** Equipment use
- **Cause:** Under Investigation



**Figures shown reflect direct suppression cost estimates by stated agency. Other federal, state and local agency costs are not included. Additional expenses not related to direct suppression (rehabilitation, agency overhead, etc.) are not included.*

The Grass Valley Fire was reported at 5:08 a.m. on October 22, 2007, west of Lake Arrowhead in San Bernardino County. The Slide Fire started a little farther to the east at 8:02 p.m. that same day, close to Green Valley Lake near Running Springs in San Bernardino County.

Both fires were driven by extremely strong, gusty Santa Ana winds. Burning at an extreme rate of spread through timber, they posed an immediate threat to communities, timber, watershed and recreation areas. Several structures were threatened and mandatory evacuations were issued for Green Valley Lake and Arrow Bear.

By 1:30 p.m., it was estimated that 115 structures had been destroyed on the Slide Fire, and thousands of others were threatened. Evacuations were extended to include Arrowhead, Running Springs, and Twin Peaks. All roads into the mountain communities were closed. By nightfall the Slide Fire had grown to 1,500 acres and the Grass Valley fire to 500 acres. The large number of fires burning in Southern California made the lack of firefighting resources a major problem.

The fire burned fiercely through the night, and on morning of October 23 was still burning at an extreme rate of spread and new evacuations were issued for Lake Arrowhead and Deer Park Lodge. By 6:41 p.m., the Slide Fire had burned over 4,000 acres and 200 structures. The Grass Valley Fire reached 1,000 acres and destroyed 100 structures. The community of Running Springs also had structures destroyed. Green Valley, surrounded by fire, was evacuated. Firefighters were forced to disengage due to extreme fire behavior. Accurate damage reports were impossible to establish because the damage assessment teams were unable to gain access to the area. Evacuations are extended to Crestline, east to Snow Valley Ski Area. Mountains Community Hospital in Lake Arrowhead was evacuated of patients. Firefighters had been engaged for 36 hours without rest.

On October 24, CA-IMT #1 assumed command of the Slide Fire at 6:00 a.m. NorCal Team II remained in command of the Grass Valley Fire. Both incidents were unified in planning and resource allocation. The Slide Fire had burned over 5,000 acres and destroyed 200 structures. Damage assessment access remained a problem. The lack of firefighting resources, staffing, and rest have become larger issues. High-density residential properties, intermixed with bug-killed timber in areas with limited access, and continued adverse weather are all major factors working against suppression efforts. By afternoon, the wind direction shifts to the west-northwest, driving the fire in a new direction. The fires are now threatening Green Valley, Running Springs, Live Oak, Fredalba, Smiley Park, Calvary Chapel Camp, National Children's Forest and Visitors Center, Arrowbear Lake, Snow Valley, and Nordic Rim Ski Resort. All are evacuated.

By the morning of October 25, containment is still at 0% and the area burned in the Slide Fire is more than 11,000 acres. The Grass Valley Fire is now about 1,100 acres. As other fires in Southern California are coming under control, more firefighting resources become available, allowing progress in perimeter control. Progress is made over the next few days as more resources become available and the weather cooperates. The focus of firefighting efforts gradually shifts to mop-up and patrol in residential areas.

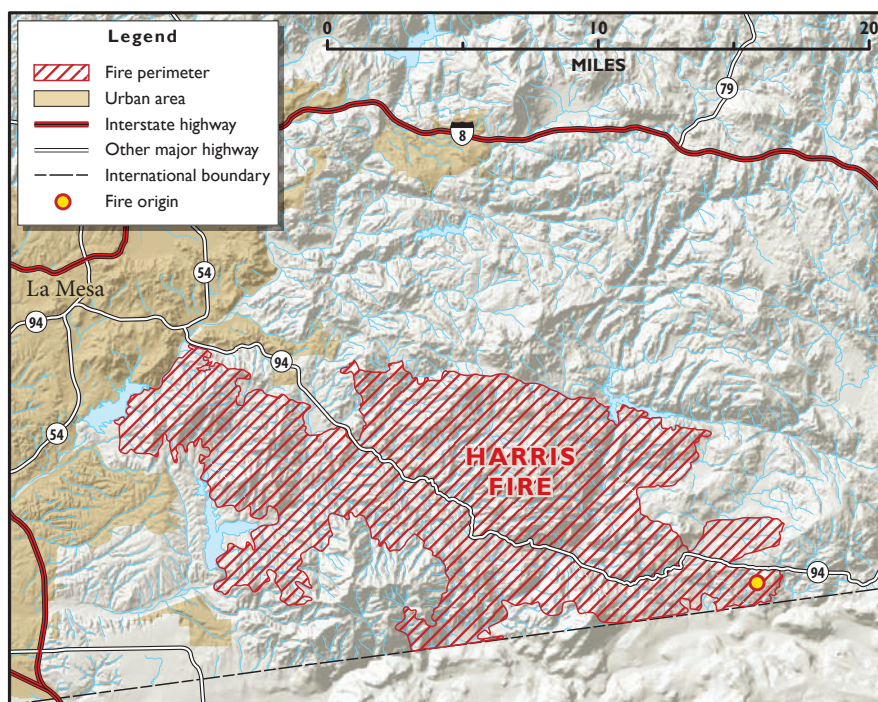
On October 28, the Grass Valley Fire is 95% contained, and Slide Fire is 85% contained. Threats to communities are diminished. Significant demobilization of firefighting resources is under way. By October 30, residents are allowed to return for site visits throughout the day. Highway 18 is completely re-opened on October 29.

The Grass Valley Fire was 100% contained on October 29, 2007.

The Slide fire was 100% contained on October 31, 2007.

Harris

- **Incident#:** MVU-010427
- **County:** San Diego
- **Agencies in Command:** CAL FIRE, USFS, San Diego City, Chula Vista, San Miguel
- **Start Report Date:** October 21, 2007
- **Containment Date:** October 31, 2007
- **Total Acres:** 90,440
- **Direct Fire Suppression Cost:***
 - US Forest Service \$5,030,000
 - CAL FIRE \$21,157,453
- **Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 2,544
- **Structures Destroyed:** 373
- **Structures Damaged:** 259
- **Firefighters Injured:** 40
- **Fatalities:** 8
- **Fuels:** Brush and grass
- **Cause:** Undetermined



The Harris Fire was reported at 9:30 a.m., October 21, 2007, in a thickly vegetated draw east of the small community of Potrero.

The fire quickly spread through grass and tinder-dry brush and across the flats of Potrero Valley into the steep hills to the west. Evacuations were immediately ordered and ground forces concentrated their efforts on life and structure protection. Fixed-and-rotary-wing aircraft working under the most difficult conditions were pressed into action to support and protect ground forces engaged in firefights to save homes and lives. During this time the firefighters on CAL FIRE Engine 3387 were caught in a fire-storm trying to evacuate a home, resulting in one civilian death, one civilian burn victim, and four seriously burned firefighters. The engine was destroyed. In order to rescue the firefighters, the pilot of a US Forest Service contract helicopter made a heroic approach and landing to get to the firefighters and civilian who were injured.

The fire burned fiercely through the day and night, and by Monday evening had burned through several small communities and had charred 22,000 acres. Many structures were destroyed, multiple roads were closed, and the fire was still listed at only 5% containment. Aircraft remained grounded due to high winds. The San Diego General Electric Southwest major transmission line was shut off. Hundreds of structures remained threatened. Extreme fire was spreading to the west-southwest towards Otay Lake, and north into Lyon's Valley and Honey Springs Road. Threat extended to the communities of Potrero, Barrett Junction, Barrett Lake Lawson Valley, Jamul, Lyons Valley and Otay Mountain. Base Camp was moved to Gillespie Field.

Protecting lives and structures became the order of the day during the first three days of the fire. Despite evacuation orders, some citizens refused to evacuate, forcing firefighters to make rescues and plead with unwilling residents to leave, using valuable time that could have been used to protect other homes. In one case a CAL FIRE/Riverside County Type 1 strike team, ST RVC 6003A, used three engines and the Strike Team Leader to heroically rescue a disabled man from the garage of a home surrounded by fire.

**Figures shown reflect direct suppression cost estimates by stated agency. Other federal, state and local agency costs are not included. Additional expenses not related to direct suppression (rehabilitation, agency overhead, etc.) are not included.*

The winds continued unabated through Tuesday, October 23, pushing the 70,000-acre fire to the Chula Vista City limits and destroying an additional 100 homes in Deerhorn. The winds calmed but changed direction, pushing the fire to the north and east, toward Deerhorn and Lyons Valley, and prompting the evacuations of Lawson Valley and Carve Acre. By evening, 5,400 people had been evacuated, with additional evacuations ordered. Hundreds of structures had burned and thousands more threatened. Fire threatens the communication site on San Miguel Mountain, and the water treatment plant. The lack of firefighting resources due to the large number of fires in Southern California continues to hinder suppression efforts. Unified Command for the fire includes the U.S. Forest Service, CAL FIRE, San Diego City, Chula Vista and San Miguel.

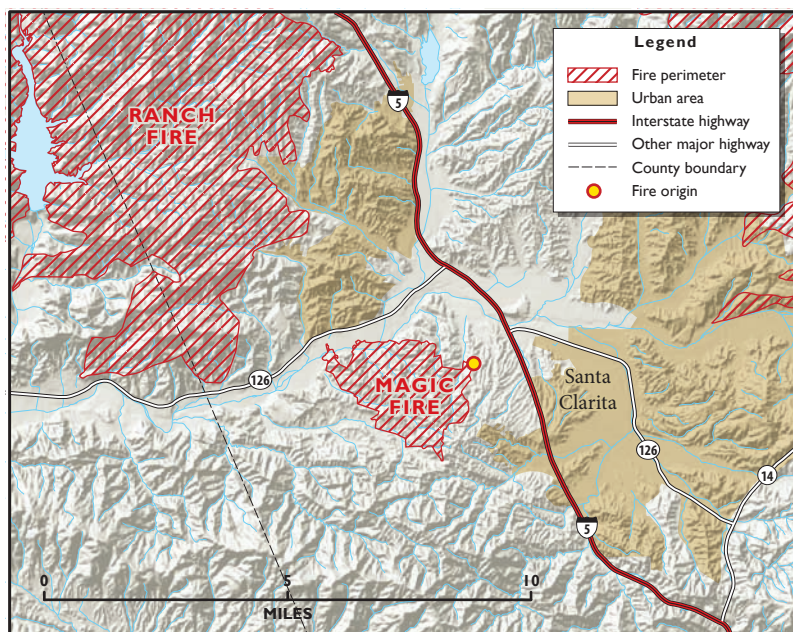
On October 24, the onshore flow moves the fire to the northeast. The fire was held at the edge of Chula Vista and San Miguel. Evacuations have been lifted for the 1000 Trails RV Park. During the next few days, fire behavior remains active on the north side with evacuations for the Lake Morena, Lawson Valley and Carve Acres areas ongoing. Structures are threatened along Highway 94 from Jamul on the east, to Jamacha on the west. Fire is a threat to the north side of the Cleveland National Forest, and is also moving east towards Lyons Valley, and burning Lyons Peak. On October 25 the fire exceeds 84,000 acres in size, but grows more slowly over the next several days as the weather become favorable for firefighters.

Residents are allowed to re-enter the Thousand Trails, Potrero, Tecate and western Jamul areas on October 26th. On October 27th evacuation orders are lifted for all areas. All residents are allowed to re-enter all fire areas on October 28.

The Harris Fire was 100% contained on October 31, 2007.

Magic

- **Incident#:** LAC-07233077
- **County:** Los Angeles
- **Agency in Command:** Los Angeles County Fire Department
- **Start Report Date:** October 22, 2007
- **Containment Date:** October 24, 2007
- **Total Acres:** 2,824
- **Direct Fire Suppression Cost:***
 - US Forest Service \$125,000
 - CAL FIRE \$900,196
- **Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 428
- **Structures Destroyed:** 0
- **Structures Damaged:** 0
- **Firefighters Injured:** 0
- **Fatalities:** 0
- **Fuels:** Chaparral
- **Cause:** Undetermined



The Magic Fire started shortly after 2:00 p.m., October 22, near the Six Flags Magic Mountain amusement park on the western side of Santa Clarita.

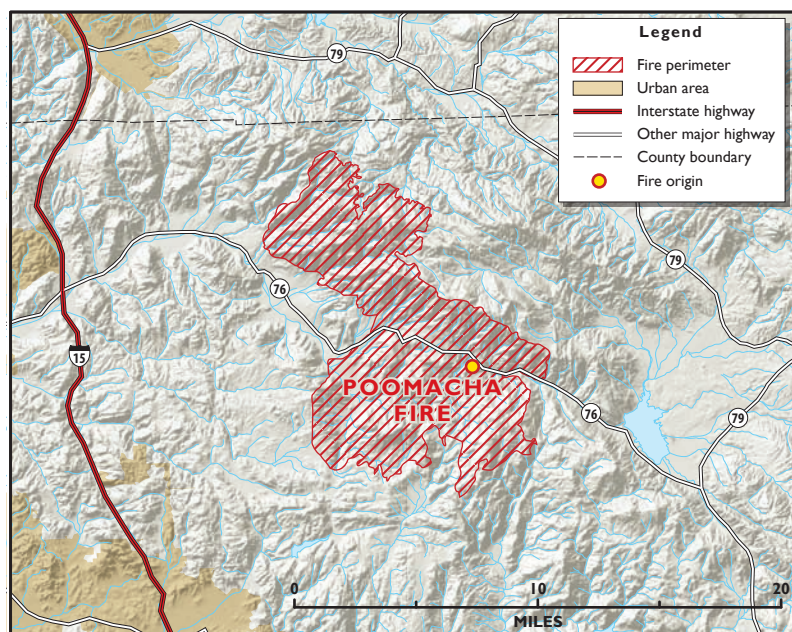
By October 23 the fire had grown to 1,200 acres. Only 20% contained, it was considered a threat to Simi Valley if the winds continued. However, weather conditions improved, and by evening there was little fire spread, and control lines were holding. Efforts shifted to mop-up and patrol.

The Magic Fire was 100% contained on October 24, 2007.

**Figures shown reflect direct suppression cost estimates by stated agency. Other federal, state and local agency costs are not included. Additional expenses not related to direct suppression (rehabilitation, agency overhead, etc.) are not included.*

Poomacha

- **Incident#:** MVU-010643
- **County:** San Diego
- **Agency in Command:** CAL FIRE, USFS
- **Start Report Date:** October 23, 2007
- **Containment Date:** November 13, 2007
- **Total Acres:** 49,410
- **Direct Fire Suppression Cost:***
US Forest Service \$6,842,500
CAL FIRE \$19,368,014
- **Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 2,793
- **Structures Destroyed:** 217
- **Structures Damaged:** 12
- **Firefighters Injured:** 13
- **Fatalities:** 0
- **Fuels:** Chaparral
- **Cause:** Structure fire



The Poomacha Fire was reported on October 23, at 3:13 a.m., as a structure fire on the La Jolla Indian Reservation, and rapidly spread to the adjacent vegetation.

Reverse 911 was used to contact residents in an effort to evacuate the entire Highway 76 corridor on the first day of the fire. The combined lack of resources and extreme fire weather were so serious on the first day that firefighters could not take action on the fire. It grew from 3,000 acres to 23,000 acres in an hour-and-a-half on day one. Eight injuries were reported.

By the morning of October 24 the area burned had grown to 25,000 acres, and 50 structures had been destroyed. Structure protection remained a priority as several communities, the Palomar Observatory, and a communication tower were threatened.

On October 25, the fire merged with the south side of the Witch Fire.

On October 26, the perimeter control lines of the Poomacha Fire were tied to those for the Witch Fire. The burn area burned reached 42,000 acres, and containment was at 35%. Extensive damage assessment confirmed 78 structures destroyed. Fire has entered the Aqua Tibia Wilderness and strategies were implemented to reduce impacts. Work in the wilderness is slow due to steep terrain. Residents are allowed to re-enter some areas.

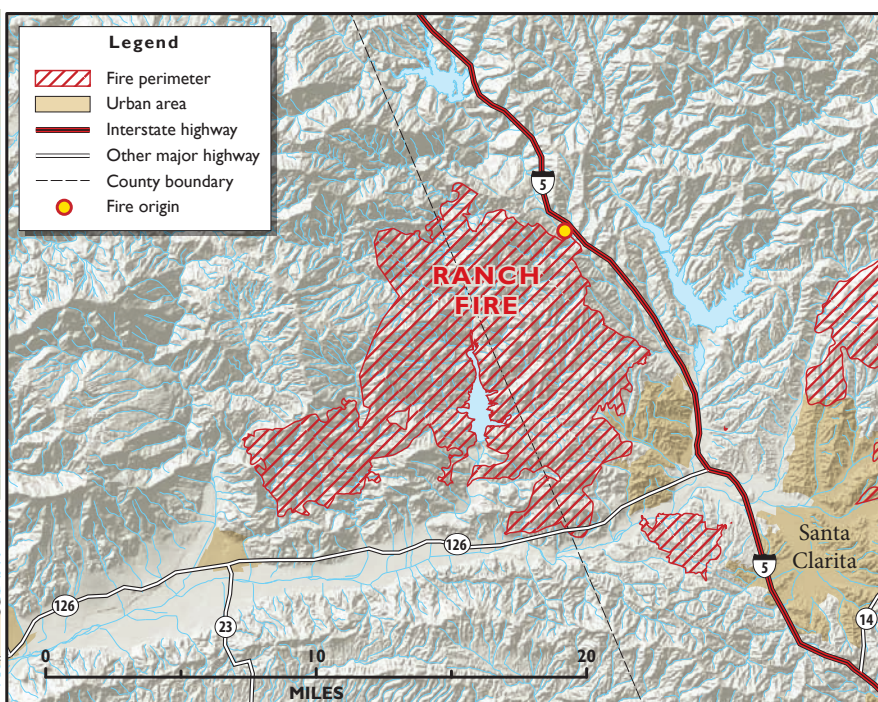
On October 27 the fire progressed to 45,000 acres and was 45% contained. The number of structures destroyed rose to 136, and the number of structures threatened declined from 2,000 to 500. On October 28, the fire perimeter encompasses 49,140 acres. Efforts for the rest of the incident shift toward securing the perimeter, mopping up, and addressing hot spots within the perimeter. Fourteen planes flew the fire on October 28, to contain the spread. It was the first day planes were able to fly in this area. Complete re-entry of residents is expected by evening. By November 1, infrared flights show very little heat left inside the fire perimeter.

The Poomacha Fire was 100% contained on November 13, 2007.

**Figures shown reflect direct suppression cost estimates by stated agency. Other federal, state and local agency costs are not included. Additional expenses not related to direct suppression (rehabilitation, agency overhead, etc.) are not included.*

Ranch

- **Incident#:** ANF-4306
- **County:** Los Angeles
- **Agencies in Command:** Los Angeles County
Fire Department, USFS
- **Start Report Date:** October 20, 2007
- **Containment Date:** October 30, 2007
- **Total Acres:** 58,401
- **Direct Fire Suppression Cost:***
US Forest Service \$9,945,000
CAL FIRE \$3,031,397
- **Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 1,264
- **Structures Destroyed:** 10
- **Structures Damaged:** 2
- **Firefighters Injured:** 8
- **Fatalities:** 0
- **Fuels:** Chaparral
- **Cause:** Equipment use



The Ranch Fire started at 9:42 p.m., October 20, 2007, on the west side of Interstate-5, approximately seven miles northwest of the community of Castaic, in Los Angeles County, and was burning to the southwest toward Ventura County.

Santa Ana winds were blowing 25-to-30 miles per hour, and gusting to 40 miles per hour. The fire was spotting up to 1/2 mile, and by 6:00 a.m. October 21, it had burned 500 acres but was slowing down. The winds had calmed to 10 miles per hour, with gusts to 20 miles per hour, and the relative humidity rose to 45%. Additional resources arrived and there was no eminent threat to structures unless the winds picked up again. Three hours later at 9:00 a.m., the fire was still holding at 500 acres. However, the winds picked up again and spread the fire from a rural area without threat to structures, to 6,000 acres. By the end of the day, it threatened the communities of Fillmore, Piru, Ventura, Ojai, and the Condor Reserve and Sespe Wilderness areas.

Winds continued to drive the fire, and by the morning of October 23, the area burned exceeded 50,000 acres, and the fire became well established in Ventura County. If the winds continued, the Buckweed, Magic, and Ranch fires were expected to burn together in 24-to-48 hours.

By October 23, seven structures were reported destroyed, and Highway 126 was closed. An evacuation center was established at the Fillmore Veterans Memorial Building. Large animals were evacuated to the Ventura County Fairgrounds and small animals were moved to the Camarillo Animal Shelter. Evacuations occurred in Chiquito Canyon, Halsey Canyon, Val Verde, Hopper Canyon and toward Fillmore. Structure protection was provided for Hasley, Piru, Sespe, Fillmore, and structures along Highway 126.

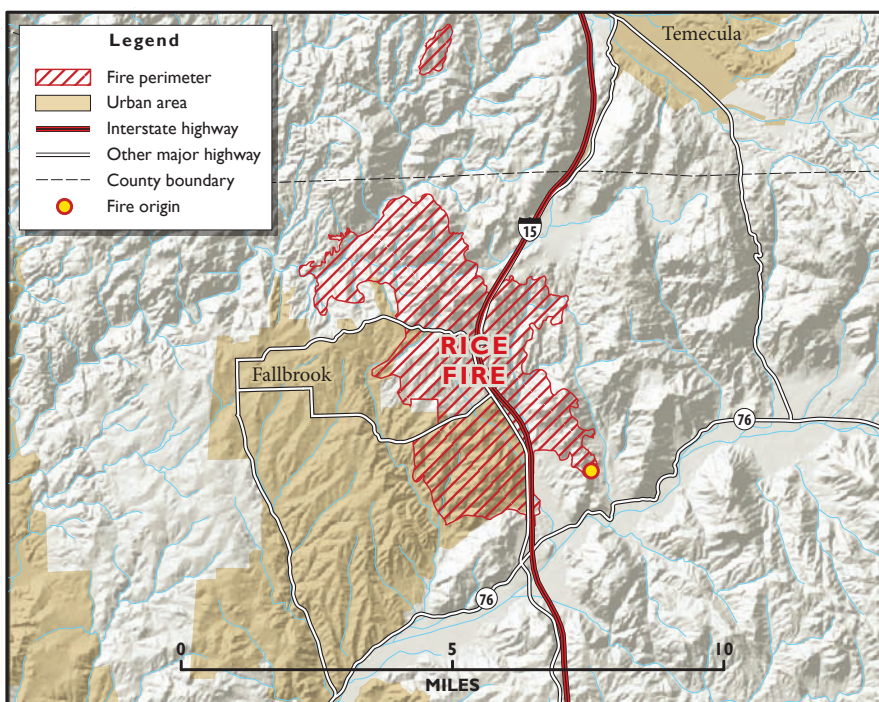
By the morning of October 24, the winds had calmed and fire activity was minimal with some topography-driven short distance runs; flames were visible from Interstate-5. Evacuations were lifted and efforts refocused on securing the perimeter and mopping up. Line construction was completed on the west perimeter of the fire on October 26; the fire was 97% contained by October 27.

The Ranch Fire was 100% contained on October 30, 2007.

**Figures shown reflect direct suppression cost estimates by stated agency. Other federal, state and local agency costs are not included. Additional expenses not related to direct suppression (rehabilitation, agency overhead, etc.) are not included.*

Rice

- **Incident#:** MVU-010502
- **County:** San Diego
- **Agencies in Command:** CAL FIRE, North
County Fire Protection District
- **Start Report Date:** October 22, 2007
- **Containment Date:** October 28, 2007
- **Total Acres:** 9,472
- **Direct Fire Suppression Cost:***
US Forest Service —
CAL FIRE \$6,757,077
- **Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 1,073
- **Structures Destroyed:** 248
- **Structures Damaged:** 0
- **Firefighters Injured:** 6
- **Fatalities:** 0
- **Fuels:** Grass and brush
- **Cause:** Human/Electrical



The Rice Fire was reported at 4:16 a.m. on October 22, burning into an agricultural area of Rice Canyon and initially threatening 250 structures.

Wind gusts of 40-to-50 miles per hour hampered early suppression efforts intended to keep fire within a perimeter defined by Rice Canyon to east, Interstate-15 to the west, Rainbow Height to north, and Highway 76 to south. Before 12:30 p.m. the fire had crossed Interstate-15 and Highway 395. By 3:30 p.m. on the first day, about 1,000 acres had burned, destroying 100 structures in Fallbrook and threatening up to a thousand others. The entire town of Fallbrook, as well as Fallbrook Hospital, was evacuated.

By the morning of October 23, the fire had burned 6,100 acres, numerous structures were destroyed or damaged, thousands more were threatened, and 20,000 avocado trees had been incinerated. As fire spread toward Santa Margarita and the Sandia Creek drainage, and it was feared that the Rice Fire would merge with the Rosa fire. By the end of the day, over 200 structures had burned, and the fire covered 7,500 acres. It was only 10% contained.

On day three, additional evacuations were ordered in the DeLuz area, north of Fallbrook. The fire covered 9,000 acres, and was moving toward Santa Margarita. The San Onofre main electrical transmission line was threatened.

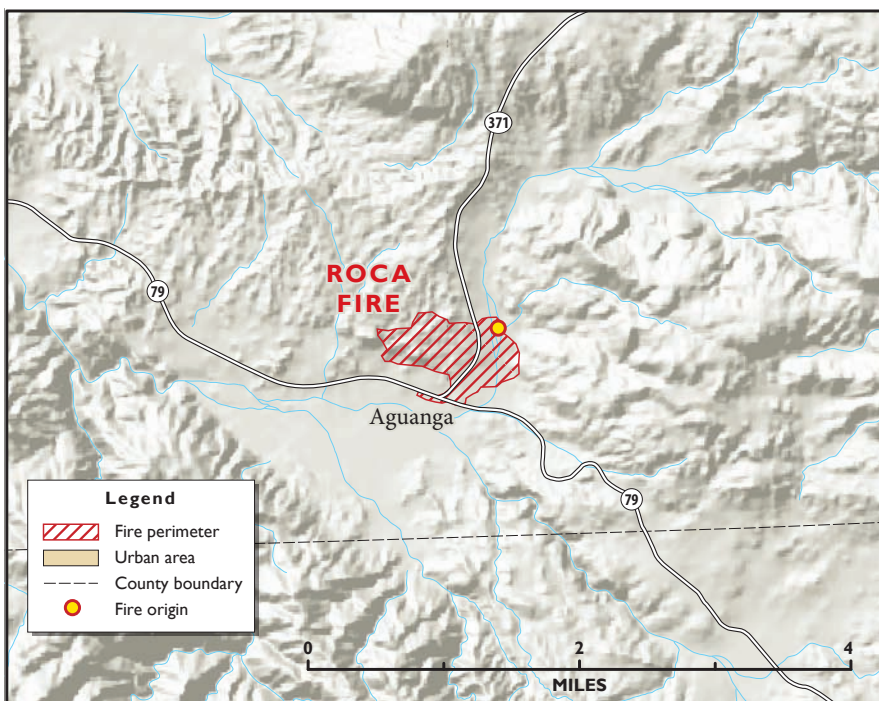
On the morning of October 25, fire spread slowed due to decreasing winds, and some residents were allowed to return home. Over the next two days, significant progress was made on fire line construction, increasing containment. Evacuation orders for all of Fallbrook lifted on October 27.

The Rice Fire was 100% contained on October 28, 2007.

**Figures shown reflect direct suppression cost estimates by stated agency. Other federal, state and local agency costs are not included. Additional expenses not related to direct suppression (rehabilitation, agency overhead, etc.) are not included.*

Roca

- **Incident#:** RRU-91948
- **County:** Riverside
- **Agency in Command:** CAL FIRE
- **Start Report Date:** October 21, 2007
- **Containment Date:** October 22, 2007
- **Total Acres:** 270
- **Direct Fire Suppression Cost:***
 - US Forest Service –
 - CAL FIRE \$353,267
- **Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 303
- **Structures Destroyed:** 1
- **Structures Damaged:** 1
- **Firefighters Injured:** 1
- **Fatalities:** 0
- **Fuels:** Chaparral
- **Cause:** Undetermined



The Roca Fire started at 3:52 p.m. on October 21, 2007, driven by gusty Santa Ana winds blowing from the northeast at 40 miles per hour.

The rapidly spreading and spotting fire was burning on both sides of Highway 371 within 90 minutes of the start. Numerous structures were threatened and evacuations were quickly undertaken in the South Lake Riverside and Iguana areas. By 11:00 p.m. additional structures were threatened in Cottonwood, and evacuations were ordered at the Jojoba RV Resort. The fire threatened the Cleveland National Forest as it headed toward Temecula Creek and the Riverside-San Diego County Line, south of Highway 79.

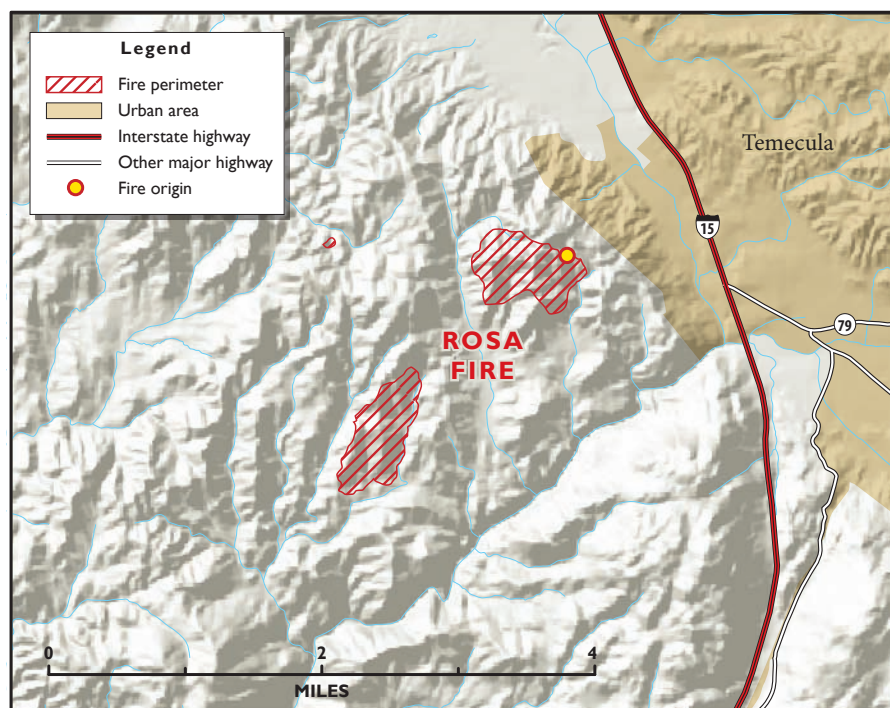
By the next morning, the fire's rate of spread had slowed.

The Roca Fire was contained by 8:00 a.m. on October 22, 2007.

**Figures shown reflect direct suppression cost estimates by stated agency. Other federal, state and local agency costs are not included. Additional expenses not related to direct suppression (rehabilitation, agency overhead, etc.) are not included.*

Rosa

- **Incident#:** RRU-93126, RRU-92560
- **County:** Riverside
- **Agency in Command:** CAL FIRE
- **Start Report Date:** October 22, 2007
- **Containment Date:** October 24, 2007
- **Total Acres:** 411
- **Direct Fire Suppression Cost:***
US Forest Service \$59,850
CAL FIRE \$670,486
- **Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 192
- **Structures Destroyed:** 2
- **Structures Damaged:** 0
- **Firefighters Injured:** 0
- **Fatalities:** 0
- **Fuels:** Chaparral
- **Cause:** Arson



The Rosa Fire started as three separate fires at 11:10 p.m. on October 22, 2007, near Temecula.

Initial suppression efforts were hampered by wind gusts over 20 miles per hour, as well as difficult access to the fire, and poor water supply for firefighting. The Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve and the 33 KV transmission lines supplying power to Orange County were threatened. Evacuations occurred in De Luz, and an evacuation center was established at the Temecula Community Center for the evacuees.

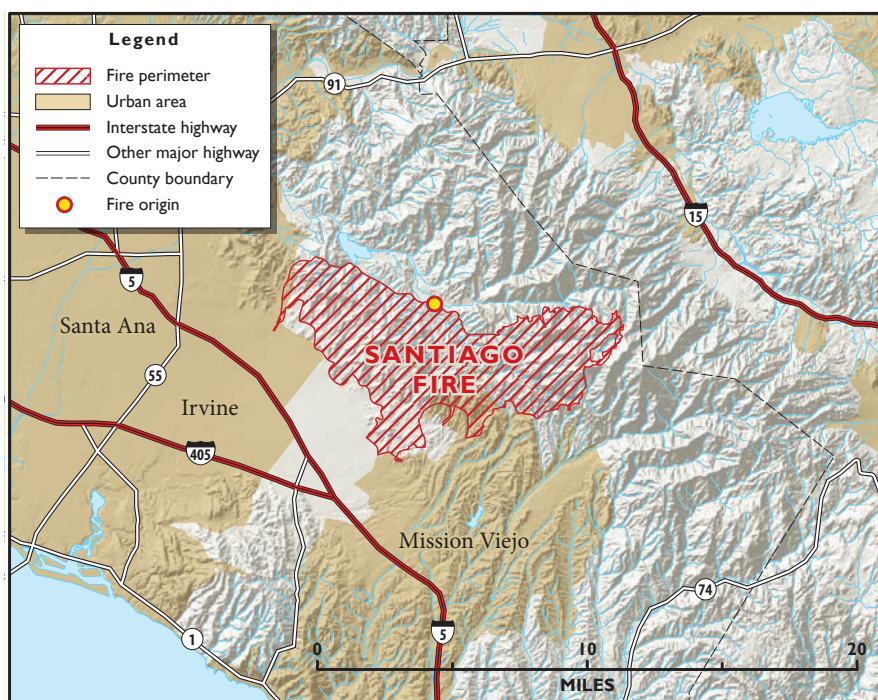
The fire was 70% contained by 6:45 a.m. the following morning, less than eight hours after it started. Evacuation and road closure restrictions were lifted at 5:00 p.m. on October 23.

The Rosa Fire was contained on October 24, 2007.

**Figures shown reflect direct suppression cost estimates by stated agency. Other federal, state and local agency costs are not included. Additional expenses not related to direct suppression (rehabilitation, agency overhead, etc.) are not included.*

Santiago

- **Incident#:** ORC-68555
- **County:** Orange
- **Agencies in Command:** Orange County Fire Authority, Orange County Sheriff, USFS, CAL FIRE
- **Start Report Date:** October 21, 2007
- **Containment Date:** November 8, 2007
- **Total Acres:** 28,400
- **Direct Fire Suppression Cost:***
US Forest Service \$10,325,000
CAL FIRE \$10,509,353
- **Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 1,982
- **Structures Destroyed:** 26
- **Structures Damaged:** 20
- **Firefighters Injured:** 13
- **Fatalities:** 0
- **Fuels:** Chaparral
- **Cause:** Arson



The Santiago fire started at 5:55 p.m. on October 21, near Irvine in Orange County. The fire was making large runs with major spotting. Numerous structures were threatened to the south and west of the fire, and evacuations were ordered immediately. A Unified Command is established with Orange County Fire Authority, U.S. Forest Service and Orange County Sheriff's Department.

As of 6:35 a.m. October 22, gusty winds continued to spread the fire, which had grown to 8,800 acres, destroying one structure and damaging two others. Residences were threatened in the communities of Portola Hills, Silverado Canyon, and Foothill Ranch. During the day the wind blew 30-to-40 miles per hour, with gusts up to 60 miles per hour. The fire posed a major threat to over 2,000 homes in Foothill Ranch, and 700 structures in Silverado Canyon. The fire crossed into Silverado Canyon, spreading toward Modjeska, covering over 16,000 acres by nightfall. Throughout the first few days of the incident, the lack of available firefighting resources due to the large number of ongoing fires hampered suppression efforts.

On the morning of October 23, the fire threatened numerous communities along the Santa Ana Canyon corridor, and also along the San Onofre power grid. Structure protection was in place for the Portola Hills, Foothill Ranch, Modjeska and Santiago Canyon areas. Newly arriving firefighting resources helped meet some of the containment objectives. By afternoon 18,000 acres had burned, destroying 10 structures and two outbuildings, and threatening several thousand additional structures. Containment remained at 30%. Winds shifting from an offshore to an onshore flow complicated the firefighting effort. Mandatory evacuations were in place for Harris Grade, Live Oak Canyon, Trabuco Canyon, Silverado, Modjeska and Ladd Canyons. There were also threats to the Chino Edison power lines.

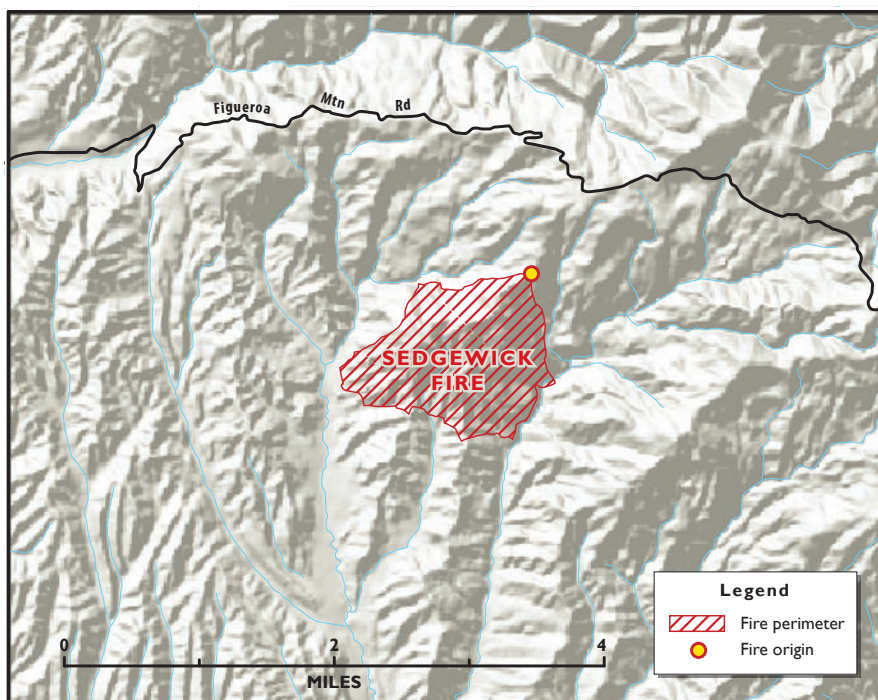
By the afternoon of October 24, the fire had spread to the northeast and the south. Good progress was made overnight in the Modjeska Canyon area. On October 25, the fire progressed to Modjeska Peak, has burned 27,000 acres, and continues to burn north toward Riverside County. For the next several days the fire expands more slowly as weather conditions become more favorable. Containment lines are established and shored up. The focus shifts to mop-up and containing flare-ups that occur in unburned islands within the fire perimeter. All evacuation orders are lifted by November 1.

The Santiago Fire was 100% contained on November 8, 2007.

**Figures shown reflect direct suppression cost estimates by stated agency. Other federal, state and local agency costs are not included. Additional expenses not related to direct suppression (rehabilitation, agency overhead, etc.) are not included.*

Sedgewick

- **Incident#:** LPF-1783
- **County:** Santa Barbara
- **Agencies in Command:** USFS, Santa Barbara County Fire Department
- **Start Report Date:** October 21, 2007
- **Containment Date:** October 23, 2007
- **Total Acres:** 710
- **Direct Fire Suppression Cost:***
US Forest Service \$3,465
CAL FIRE \$1,053,945
- **Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 516
- **Structures Destroyed:** 0
- **Structures Damaged:** 0
- **Firefighters Injured:** 0
- **Fatalities:** 0
- **Fuels:** Grass
- **Cause:** Power lines



The Sedgewick fire was reported at 6:00 a.m., October 21, south of Figueroa Mountain in Santa Barbara County.

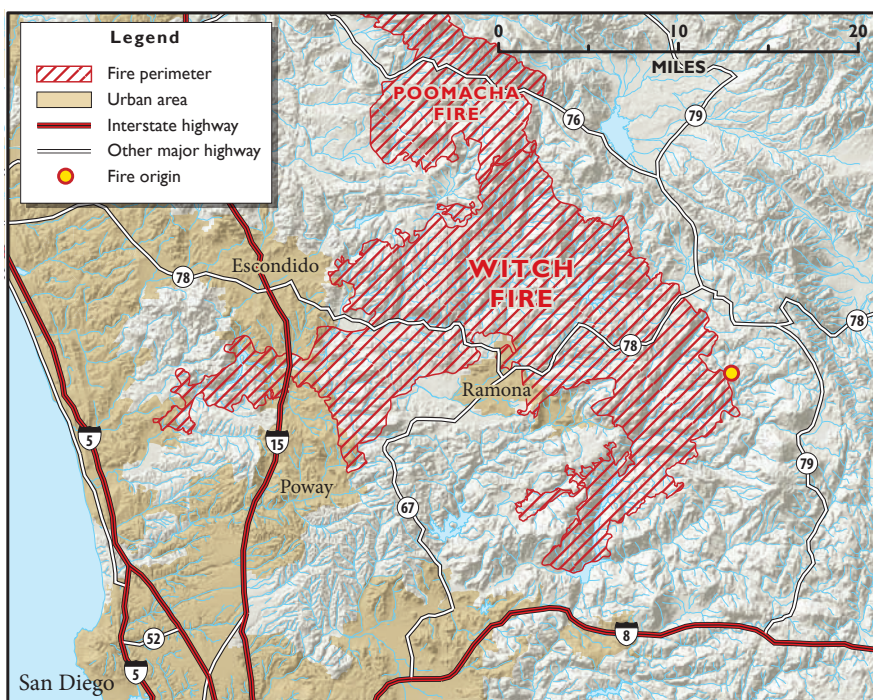
About 450 homes were threatened. Evacuation warnings were posted for the Woodstock area. By the afternoon of October 22, the fire was 75% contained, and resources were released to help the efforts on other ongoing fires. Arcing from electrical power lines is suspected to be the cause of the fire.

The Sedgewick Fire was contained at 6:00 a.m., October 23, 2007.

**Figures shown reflect direct suppression cost estimates by stated agency. Other federal, state and local agency costs are not included. Additional expenses not related to direct suppression (rehabilitation, agency overhead, etc.) are not included.*

Witch

- **Incident#:** MVU-010432
- **County:** San Diego
- **Agencies in Command:** CAL FIRE, USFS, Heartland Fire Zone, Rancho Santa Fe FPD, San Diego County FS, Poway, Escondido
- **Start Report Date:** October 21, 2007
- **Containment Date:** October 31, 2007
- **Total Acres:** 197,990
- **Direct Fire Suppression Cost:***
US Forest Service \$5,393,500
CAL FIRE \$17,792,887
- **Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 2,883
- **Structures Destroyed:** 1,624
- **Structures Damaged:** 103
- **Firefighters Injured:** 40
- **Fatalities:** 2
- **Fuels:** Chaparral
- **Cause:** Power lines



The Witch Fire was reported at about 12:35 p.m. on October 21, 2007, east of Ramona in San Diego County.

By the end of the first day, the fire was well established in the Witch Creek drainage, had jumped Interstate-15 and burned multiple structures in Ramona, Rancho Bernardo and Poway, and grown to near 10,000 acres in size. Communities threatened included Ramona, San Diego Country Estates, Barona Mesa, Barona Indian Reservation, Poway and San Pasqual. Widespread evacuations were in progress.

At approximately 4:00 a.m., October 22, the Guajito Fire was reported south of the San Diego Wild Animal Park, burning in the San Pasqual River drainage. Within 30 minutes it had burned west to I-15, causing the CHP to close the highway in both directions and disrupting the evacuation of communities threatened by the Witch Fire. The Guajito Fire burned under I-15 toward Rancho Bernardo, and later in the day merged with the Witch Fire.

By the evening of October 22, the fire had blown up to 145,000 acres, with an estimated 500 structures destroyed and another 250 damaged. The fire, pushed by the strong Santa Ana winds, was burning rapidly and produced long range spotting up to 1/4 mile in front of the fire. Thousands of structures were threatened. Much of the fire was burning between the 2003 Paradise and Cedar fire burns in 25-year-old fuel.

On the morning of October 23, at 8:30 a.m., the fire had already burned 165,000 acres but was only 1% contained. The wind pushed the fire to the west-and-southwest at a rapid rate, with long range spotting. Thousands of structures remained threatened. At 1:50 p.m., it is reported that the fire has grown to 200,000 acres and still only 1% contained. In the last three hours, 100 homes have burned in the communities of Rancho Santa Fe, Harmony Grove, Valley Center, Escondido and Valley Center. By 5:50 p.m., the perimeter growth had slowed and the area burned remained the same. Structures were destroyed in the additional communities of Rancho San Diego, Millar Ranch, Indian Springs and Jamul; all had all been evacuated. Evacuation centers were set up.

**Figures shown reflect direct suppression cost estimates by stated agency. Other federal, state and local agency costs are not included. Additional expenses not related to direct suppression (rehabilitation, agency overhead, etc.) are not included.*

By October 24, the Santa Ana winds had ended and the winds shifted onshore. Fire spread was greatly reduced. Damage estimates now tallied 805 structures destroyed, and 375 damaged. Communities threatened now include the additional communities of Julian, Pine Hills, Rincon, and Rancho Bernardo.

The Poomacha Fire merges with the Witch Fire on October 25. The Structure Assessment Team confirms that 69 homes were destroyed in Escondido, 85 in Poway, 480 in San Diego City, and more than 600 in San Diego County. Residents begin to return to some areas of Poway, Escondido, Rancho Santa Fe, San Diego City, Ramona, and Rancho Bernardo. There is increased fire activity in the El Capitan area and south of Lake Henshaw, but this occurs with no significant fire spread.

As fire behavior moderates from October 26 to October 31, suppression efforts shift to completion of the fire line perimeter, rehabilitation, and damage assessment. Evacuations are lifted, people return to their communities and demobilization of firefighting resources occurs.

The Witch Fire was 100% contained at 197,990 acres on October 31, 2007.

Appendix III: Evacuations

“The fires...forced the evacuation of more than 350,000 houses, most of them in San Diego County. With the area’s average household size of 2.6 people, that means the evacuation could encompass nearly 910,000 people.”

MSNBC, October 23, 2007

The 2007 fire siege in Southern California forced hundreds of thousands of residents to evacuate, triggered numerous road closures, and prompted school officials to cancel classes throughout the region.

Evacuees quickly filled all available hotel rooms, poured into shelters, pitched tents in parking lots, or slept in their cars. Many were able to stay with nearby friends or relatives.

Four days into the siege, the number of citizens displaced was estimated at nearly a million. Many major roads were closed, including Interstate-15 on October 22, and Interstate-5 on October 24. In San Diego County alone, the residents of at least 11 nursing homes were evacuated, and in Orange County, a jail housing 900 inmates required evacuation.

Overall, local agencies and residents conducted themselves in a safe, orderly manner, following the instructions of firefighters and law enforcement officials. Operating under “unified command,” most firefighting teams included local law enforcement personnel, giving them a crucial strategic perspective in addition to the tactical perspective of the fire commanders. The broader view gained through unified command, along with improved communication technologies, helped the massive evacuation process to run smoothly.

A vital component in any evacuation or emergency situation is communication. During the October fire siege, the Reverse 911 system was employed on a large scale, and was key to reaching thousands of citizens. Previous evacuation communications, such as those employed in the 2003 fire siege, depended on residents watching the news, listening to radio broadcasts or waiting for a personal visit from law enforcement officials giving evacuation orders. The Reverse 911 system contacted nearly 200,000 citizens with recorded phone messages relevant to their communities.



A volunteer sorts donations made to evacuees. Businesses, individuals and agencies were generous in their support of those who were displaced by the siege.

Appendix IV: After Action Reports

After Action Reports

Major fire sieges fully test the various management systems that are designed for emergency response and coordination. Agency executives take a hard look at all aspects of the operation and make adjustments as necessary. The management team responsible for each of the major fires prepares an incident-specific post-incident activity summary with findings and recommendations. In addition, there are several completed and on-going major after-action reports from various levels of government discussing operations during the California Fire Siege 2007. This list describes some of these reports, and is not intended to be all-inclusive.

Blue Ribbon Commission Task Force

In November 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger asked the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission formed after the 2003 fire siege, to reconvene and assess what happened during the 2007 fires and recommend improvements in California's fire and emergency response system. On January 18, 2008 the 18-member independent panel of fire service professionals issued an interim report. This report titled "Blue Ribbon Commission Task Force Report" detailed more than a dozen critical recommendations to increase permanent state and local emergency services, build additional surge capacity, improve tactical capabilities, establish better coordination among governmental agencies, and promote fire-safe construction and land-use planning. Some high-priority recommendations, such as staffing, equipment and training, were incorporated into the governor's proposed 2008-2009 budget.

Lessons Learned Center

The Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center actively promotes a learning culture to enhance and sustain safe and effective work practices in the wildland fire community. The Center provides opportunities and resources to foster collaboration among all fire professionals, facilitates their networks, provides access to state-of-the-art learning tools, and links learning to training.

The Lessons Learned Center conducted a study of actions taken during the October fire siege and issued a report entitled "Initial Impressions Report Southern California Fires 2007: What we learned, how we worked".

Interviewees for this report noted several areas that should receive focused attention until, either through policy, training, or equipment upgrades, these problems areas are resolved. This report does not relate a complete history of the events or decisions made during Southern California's 2007 fires. It codifies the observations of a broad sampling of representatives from as many agencies and organizations as possible, who were working in a variety of roles, in several functions, on different fires. The report then highlights the themes that rose as common concerns among all of these respondents.



Smoky conditions spread throughout Southern California

*Hemet Ryan AAB
on the morning of
November 3, 2007
just minutes prior to
the start of morning
operations.*



Aviation Response

The aviation management teams of CAL FIRE and the U.S. Forest Service, Region 5, conducted a study of the aviation response during the siege. Their findings are documented in the report “Collection of Aviation Related Written Accounts”, compiled from submitted accounts written by Air Tactical Group Supervisors, Lead Plane Pilots, Bravo units, and Air Tanker Bases Southern California Fires October 2007. This report collected information from aviation management officers that will prove valuable for future management reviews of operational procedures.

National Response Plan

The federal Office of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have made significant changes to the National Response Plan since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the Katrina Hurricane disaster. These plans were put into action during this fire siege, and were fully tested. FEMA is preparing numerous after-action studies and reports to evaluate the effectiveness of the updates. These studies will be published and distributed by FEMA.

Appendix V: Proclamations and Declarations

10/26/2007

EXECUTIVE ORDER S-13-07

WHEREAS on October 21, 2007, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura as a result of major wildfires fanned by extremely high winds; and

WHEREAS at least 13 out of more than 20 fires continue to burn in Southern California, which have already killed one person and injured dozens of others, including firefighters; and

WHEREAS the fires have displaced hundreds of thousands of persons in the largest evacuation in California history, including those taking refuge in more than 50 shelters, which have housed more than 20,000 people; and

WHEREAS these fires have burned over 450,000 acres of land and more than 1,600 structures, and caused the loss of valuable personal and business records; and

WHEREAS more than 10,000 firefighters are fighting the fires; and

WHEREAS the President of the United States declared that the conditions in the affected counties constitute a major disaster; and

WHEREAS the State Employment Development Department and my Office of Emergency Services estimate that thousands of workers are, or will be, unemployed as a result of the wildfire disaster and are in need of immediate financial assistance; and

WHEREAS the suspension of the statutory one-week waiting period for unemployment insurance applicants who are unemployed due to the wildfire disaster would provide these unemployed workers with immediate financial assistance; and

WHEREAS hospitals, mobile hospitals, temporary hospital annexes, mass care centers, first-aid stations, or other similar temporary facilities established by public entities in the affected areas to care for persons displaced by the fires may be subject to licensing requirements that may prevent, hinder or delay the establishment of those facilities or their ability to provide health care services; and

WHEREAS existing state law does not permit former health care professionals who retired in good standing, or inactive health care professionals in good standing, to practice their professions, even though these persons can play a helpful role in providing emergency health care services where insufficient licensed personnel are available; and

WHEREAS other statutes, regulations, rules or orders governing the delivery of medical care may prevent, hinder or delay the delivery of health care services to persons displaced by the fires; and

WHEREAS those who have lost family members, and those who have lost or sustained damage to their homes, property, businesses or places of employment, may need to obtain or replace important government records such as certificates of birth, death, fetal death, or marriage, as well as marriage dissolution records, driver's licenses, identification cards, vehicle registration certificates, and certificates of title, to obtain assistance from federal, state and local governmental agencies, make claims for and collect insurance, find new employment, and for other purposes related to losses suffered in the fire; and

WHEREAS those who need to obtain or replace important government records to mitigate their losses and rebuild their lives as a consequence of the wildfire disaster require immediate assistance from state and local governmental agencies to replace those records; and

WHEREAS existing law requires the Office of Vital Records of the Department of Public Health, along with local registrars, county recorders and county clerks, to impose fees upon persons requesting copies of certificates of birth, death, fetal death, and marriage, and marriage dissolution records, and existing law requires the State Department of Motor Vehicles to impose fees upon persons requesting replacement driver's licenses, identification cards, vehicle registration certificates, and certificates of title; and

WHEREAS existing law requires the State Department of Motor Vehicles to impose late fees on persons who are late in renewing their vehicle registration or late in transferring ownership of a vehicle; and

WHEREAS existing law requires the State Department of Housing and Community Development to impose fees on persons who are late in renewing their manufactured home registration or late in transferring ownership of a manufactured home; and

WHEREAS the suspension of statutory requirements for imposition of fees would assist fire victims; and

WHEREAS my Office of Emergency Services has successfully used Local Assistance Centers during previous emergencies to coordinate and expedite disaster assistance by providing "one-stop" centers where those affected by an emergency may obtain all services provided by governmental and community organizations; and

WHEREAS the California Military Department, through the California National Guard, has the capability to protect the lives and property of the people of the state during periods of natural disaster and civil disturbances, and to perform other functions required by the California Military Department or as directed by the Governor.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, including the Emergency Services Act and in particular Government Code sections 8567 and 8571, do hereby issue the following orders to become effective immediately:

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The California National Guard shall mobilize under California Military and Veterans Code section 146 (mobilization in case of catastrophic fires) to support disaster response and relief efforts and coordinate with all relevant state agencies, including my Office of Emergency Services, and all relevant state and local emergency responders and law enforcement within the impacted areas. Sections 147 and 188 of the Military and Veterans Code are applicable during the period of participation in this mission, exempting the California Military Department from applicable procurement rules for specified emergency purchases, and those rules are hereby suspended.
2. The provisions of Unemployment Insurance Code section 1253 imposing a one-week waiting period for unemployment insurance applicants are suspended as to all applicants who are unemployed as a result of the wildfire disaster in the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura, who apply for unemployment insurance benefits during the time period beginning October 21, 2007 and ending on the close of business on April 21, 2008, and who are otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits in California.
3. Any hospital, mobile hospital, temporary hospital annex, mass care center, first-aid station, or other similar facility

established in the affected area for disaster response shall be exempt from the requirements set forth in Health and Safety Code sections 1200 through 1799.207 (licensing provisions) and sections 127125 through 130070 (health policy planning, health professions development, health care demonstration projects, health data, facilities loan insurance and financing, facilities design review and construction). Such facilities shall be established and operated in accordance with the State Emergency Plan and local emergency plans. The Licensing and Certification Division of the State Department of Public Health shall, to the extent reasonably possible, advise public entities on reasonable and appropriate measures under the circumstances to protect the health and safety of persons in the facility.

4. Business & Professions Code sections 702 (inactive healing arts license) and 2439 (retired license) are suspended and without effect in the counties subject to the proclamation of emergency, provided that, at the time the practitioner retired or became inactive, his or her license was in good standing.
5. The provisions of Health and Safety Code sections 103525.5 and 103625, and the provisions of Penal Code section 14251, requiring the imposition of fees, are hereby suspended with regard to any request for copies of certificates of birth, death, fetal death, and marriage, or marriage dissolution records by any resident of the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara or Ventura who suffered a loss of a family member, or who suffered loss or damage to property, business, or employment, due to the wildfire disaster. Copies of certificates of birth, death, fetal death, and marriage, and marriage dissolution records, shall be provided to such persons without charge.
6. Health and Safety Code section 18114, requiring the imposition of fees, is hereby suspended with regard to any late renewal of registration certificate or certificate of title for a manufactured home by any registered owner who lost these documents as a result of the wildfire disaster. Those documents shall be replaced without charge.
7. The provisions of Vehicle Code sections 9265(a), 9867, 14901, 14902 and 15255.2, requiring the imposition of fees, are hereby suspended with regard to any request for replacement of a driver's license, identification card, vehicle registration certificate or certificate of title by any resident of the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura who suffered a loss of such documents in the wildfire disaster. A replacement driver's license, identification card, vehicle registration certificate, or certificate of title shall be provided to such persons without charge.
8. The provisions of Vehicle Code sections 4602 and 5902, requiring the timely registration or transfer of title, are hereby suspended with regard to any registration or transfer of title by any resident of the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura who suffered a loss of such registration or title documents in the wildfire disaster. The time covered by this suspension shall not be included in calculating any late penalty pursuant to Vehicle Code section 9554.
9. My Office of Emergency Services shall immediately establish and support Local Assistance Centers where needed to provide "one-stop" emergency assistance services to those affected by the wildfires in the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura.
10. My Office of Emergency Services shall coordinate assistance programs offered by all relevant federal, state and local agencies and departments, including, but not limited to, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the California Conservation Corps, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Health Care Services, the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Consumer Affairs, the Employment Development Department, the Department of the Highway Patrol, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Aging, the Department of

Transportation, the Department of Insurance, and the Franchise Tax Board.

11. All State agencies with responsibility, regulatory authority or expertise related to recovery efforts in connection with these fires shall cooperate fully and act expeditiously in coordination with the California Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency, to facilitate the mitigation of the effects of the fires and the environmental restoration of the affected areas.
12. State agencies shall expeditiously enter into contracts and arrange for the procurement of materials, goods, and services necessary to quickly remove dangerous debris, repair damaged resources, and restore and protect the impacted watershed. Because strict compliance with the provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code applicable to state contracts would prevent, hinder, or delay these efforts, applicable provisions of those statutes, including, but not limited to, advertising and competitive bidding requirements, are suspended to the extent necessary to address the effects of this emergency.
13. Statutes, rules, regulations and requirements are hereby suspended to the extent they apply to the following activities: (a) removal, storage, transportation and disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous debris resulting from the disaster, (b) necessary restoration, and (c) related activities. Such statutes, rules, regulations and requirements are suspended only to the extent necessary for expediting the removal and cleanup of debris from the disaster, and for implementing any restoration plan. The Secretary for the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the Secretary for the California Resources Agency, shall use sound discretion in applying this suspension to ensure that the suspension serves the purpose of accelerating cleanup and recovery, while at the same time protecting public health and the environment. The Secretaries shall maintain a public list of all statutes, rules, regulations and requirements that are suspended, and shall post the list prominently on their websites. This order shall apply to, but is not necessarily limited to, solid waste facility permits, and waste discharge requirements for storage, disposal, emergency timber harvesting, stream environment zones, emergency construction activities, along with waste discharge requirements and/or Water Quality Certification for discharges of fill material or pollutants. To the extent it is within their administrative authority and discretion, the boards, departments and offices within the California Environmental Protection Agency shall expedite the granting of other authorizations, waivers or permits necessary for the removal, storage, transportation and disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous debris resulting from the fires, and for other actions necessary for the protection of public health and the environment.
14. My Office of Emergency Services and all affected State agencies and departments shall provide assistance to the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura. Support provided by the State for implementation of the California Disaster Assistance Act shall include, but shall not necessarily be limited to, the use of state personnel and state contractors to support recovery operations.
15. State agencies and departments shall work with local officials to put into place and implement a comprehensive structural debris removal plan that will treat the removal of structural debris as a single organized project.
16. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and the California Conservation Corps, shall use inmate and ward labor, where appropriate, to protect public health, safety, and water quality on public lands or where otherwise requested by private property owners.
17. Standby order numbers one and three are invoked to allow sufficient state personnel to address disaster response and recovery, clean-up and restoration efforts. Standby order number one provides: "It is hereby ordered that the period of employment for State Personnel Board emergency appointments, as provided in Section 19120 of the Government Code and State Personnel Board Rules 301-303, be waived for positions required

for involvement in emergency and/or recovery operations. The requirements and period of employment for such appointments will be determined by the Director, California Office of Emergency Services, but shall not extend beyond the termination date of said State of Emergency." Standby order number three provides: "It is hereby ordered that during the proclaimed State of Emergency appropriate parts of Sections 18020-18026 of the Government Code and State Personnel Board Rules 130-139 be waived to permit cash compensation to personnel whose work is designated by the Director, California Office of Emergency Services, as essential to expedite emergency and recovery operations for all time worked over the employee's regular workweek, at a rate of 1-1/2 times the regular rate of pay. The Director, Office of Emergency Services, will also designate the beginning and ending dates for such overtime for each individual involved. This waiver shall not extend beyond the termination date of said State of Emergency."

IT IS FURTHER REQUESTED THAT:

1. The Public Utilities Commission direct utility companies with transmission lines in the affected area to ensure that all dead and dying trees and vegetation are completely cleared from their utility right-of-ways to mitigate the potential threat to human health and safety and public property.
2. The Franchise Tax Board and the Board of Equalization consider using their administrative powers where appropriate to provide those individuals and/or businesses impacted by the wildfires extensions for filing, audits, billing, notices, assessments and relief from subsequent penalties.

This Executive Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

I FURTHER DIRECT THAT, as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given to this order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 25th day of October 2007.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor of California



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[FEMA-1731-DR]

California; Major Disaster and Related Determinations

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a notice of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the State of California (FEMA-1731-DR), dated October 24, 2007, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 24, 2007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peggy Miller, Disaster Assistance Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-2705.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that, in a letter dated October 24, 2007, the President declared a major disaster under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5206 (the Stafford Act), as follows:

I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the State of California resulting from wildfires beginning on October 21, 2007, and continuing, is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5206 (the Stafford Act). Therefore, I declare that such a major disaster exists in the State of California.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to allocate from funds available for these purposes such amounts as you find necessary for Federal disaster assistance and administrative expenses.

You are authorized to provide Individual Assistance, assistance for debris removal and emergency protective measures (Categories A and B) under the Public Assistance program in the designated areas, Hazard Mitigation throughout the State, and any other forms of assistance under the Stafford Act that you deem appropriate subject to completion of Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs), unless you determine that the incident is of such unusual severity and magnitude that PDAs are not required to determine the need for supplemental Federal assistance pursuant to 44 C.F.R. § 206.33(d).

Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation, and Other Needs Assistance will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs. Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance also will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs, except for any particular projects that are eligible for a higher Federal cost-sharing percentage under the FEMA Public Assistance Pilot Program instituted pursuant to 6 U.S.C. § 777.

Further, you are authorized to make changes to this declaration to the extent allowable under the Stafford Act.

The time period prescribed for the implementation of section 310(a), Priority to Certain Applications for Public Facility and Public Housing Assistance, 42 U.S.C. 5153, shall be for a period not to exceed six months after the date of this declaration.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice that pursuant to the authority vested in the Administrator, Department of Homeland Security, under Executive Order 12148, as amended, Michael J. Hall, of FEMA is appointed to act as the Federal Coordinating Officer for this declared disaster.

I do hereby determine the following areas of the State of California to have been affected adversely by this declared major disaster:

Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties for Individual Assistance and debris removal and emergency protective measures (Categories A and B) under the Public Assistance program.

All counties within the State of California are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

(The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 97.030, Community Disaster Loans; 97.031, Cora Brown Fund Program; 97.032, Crisis Counseling; 97.033, Disaster Legal Services Program; 97.034, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 97.046, Fire Management Assistance; 97.048, Individual and Household Housing; 97.049, Individual and Household Disaster Housing Operations; 97.050 Individual and Household Program-Other Needs, 97.036, Public Assistance Grants; 97.039, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.)

R. David Paulison,
Administrator,
Federal Emergency Management Agency.

PROCLAMATION

by the Governor of the State of California

WHEREAS on October 21, 2007, there are more than eleven major wildfires burning in Southern California; and
WHEREAS the wildfires are being driven by dry conditions and high winds, and these conditions are expected to continue for several days; and

WHEREAS more than 20,000 acres have already burned, and more areas are threatened; and

WHEREAS the wildfires have already caused the loss of human life and serious injuries; and

WHEREAS homes, businesses and other structures have burned; and

WHEREAS residents have been evacuated in many communities and several highways and local roads have been closed; and

WHEREAS the wildfires have disrupted a major electrical transmission line and caused power outages; and

WHEREAS on October 21, 2007, my Office of Emergency Services requested federal Fire Management Assistance Grants for many of the fires to ensure that adequate financial resources are available to rapidly attack the fires and reimburse critical emergency response costs; and

WHEREAS some counties have already issued local proclamations of emergency regarding the wildfires, requesting that I issue a state proclamation of emergency, and more local proclamations of emergency are anticipated; and

WHEREAS these wildfires, by reason of their magnitude, are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of any single county, city and county, or city and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of section 8558(b) of the California Government Code, I find that, because of the wildfires, conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist in the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, section 8625 of the California Government Code, HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY to exist within the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of my Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the State Emergency Plan, and that OES provide local government assistance under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 21st Day of October 2007.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of California



05/09/2007

EXECUTIVE ORDER S-07-07

WHEREAS the threat of wildfires in California present extreme peril to the people, property and environment; and
WHEREAS this emergency situation of imminent fire danger is caused by the extraordinary number of dead, dying and diseased trees resulting from prolonged drought, overstocked forests and infestation by bark beetles and other decay organisms; and

WHEREAS the number of dead and dying trees continues to increase, providing a readily available fuel load which could result in catastrophic fires; and

WHEREAS an Arctic Cold Front resulting in extreme low temperatures and freezing conditions swept through California, beginning on January 11, 2007, and continuing for a period of time thereafter, contributed to the increased mortality of wildland vegetation therefore fire danger; and

WHEREAS below normal precipitation, higher than season normal temperatures, strong winds and low relative humidity in the majority of the State during this past winter have contributed to early drying of brush and other wildland vegetation; and

WHEREAS reduction in other-agency resources, including aviation assets, limits their initial attack capabilities; and

WHEREAS coordinated fire prevention, aggressive fuels reduction programs and strong initial attack resources remain critical; and

WHEREAS increased risk of catastrophic wildfires throughout California threatens the lives, property and economic well-being of the people of the State; and

WHEREAS the increased risk of catastrophic wildfires throughout California may result in unplanned releases of air pollutants that adversely affect air and water quality, soil stability, populations of sensitive and endangered fish and wildlife species, and their habitat; and

WHEREAS the increased risk of catastrophic wildfires could significantly impact state efforts to reduce greenhouse gases by large uncontrolled emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases caused by wildfire; and

WHEREAS the United States Forest Service and Federal Emergency Management Agency have directed funding to assist in fuel removal and forest health improvement.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby issue this order to become effectively immediately:

IT IS ORDERED that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) shall secure and deploy additional resources necessary, as determined by the Director, to protect the safety of persons and property from wildfires during periods of elevated fire risk as follows:

- Staff additional fire crews, fire engines, fire bulldozers, and aviation resources as warranted based on fire threat conditions.
- Assign a crew of four firefighters to selected CAL FIRE fire engines as warranted based on fire threat conditions.
- Assign a Helitack Crew to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department helicopter.
- Provide for immediate availability and utilization of the Supertanker aircraft.
- Assign additional resources in the CAL FIRE contract counties as warranted based on fire threat conditions.

- Coordinate with the military for those resources that may be available for assistance during emergencies in California.
- Assign additional fire safety inspectors where and when beneficial to reduce fire risk.
- Assign fire lookouts during peak fire conditions as part of CAL FIRE staffing patterns.
- Increase staffing for command and control functions at CAL FIRE Unit Emergency Command Centers, Northern and Southern Operations centers and the CAL FIRE Sacramento Coordination Center when necessary to respond to significant fire events.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that CAL FIRE obtain additional staffing as necessary to support a heightened level of fire prevention public awareness and education utilizing CAL FIRE Volunteers in Prevention, Fire Safe Councils, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that CAL FIRE continue to expedite the processing of contracts and grants of federal funds to the communities as quickly as possible and support all local and regional responses to the bark beetle affected tree eradication and community emergency planning efforts.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Office of Emergency Services (OES), in consultation and coordination with CAL FIRE, as fire threat conditions warrant, deploy OES fire engine strike teams to ensure a substantial response capability to any wildland fire situation in California, and that the costs of the deployment shall be reimbursed consistent with the California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid Plan and the California Fire Assistance Agreement.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the California National Guard prepare its aviation assets, and pre-position ground support equipment as appropriate for immediate response to major wildfires and report to OES weekly on the status of all aircraft.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, including the Division of Juvenile Justice, place the highest priority for assignment of level-one inmates and wards to staff Conservation Camp Fire Crews.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the California Conservation Corps report to CAL FIRE daily on the status of all its support crews for response to wildfires.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that OES review appropriate state departments to assure preparedness for response to wildfires.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that CAL FIRE and OES work closely with federal, state and local government agencies, bordering states, and the government of Mexico to maximize California's fire prevention and fighting capabilities and to provide appropriate reciprocal assistance when requested.

This Order is not intended to, and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable in law or equity, against the State of California, its departments, agencies or other entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as soon as hereafter possible, this order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given to this order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 9th day of May 2007.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of California



June 22, 2006

EXECUTIVE ORDER S-10-06

WHEREAS the threat of wildfires in California present extreme peril to the people, property and environment, and
WHEREAS this emergency situation of imminent fire danger is caused by the extraordinary number of dead, dying and diseased trees resulting from prolonged drought, overstocked forests and infestation by bark beetles and other decay organisms; and

WHEREAS an above normal level of precipitation throughout the state during this past winter has led to increased growth of grass and brush, and

WHEREAS the amount of dead and dying trees continues to increase, providing a readily available fuel load which could result in catastrophic fires; and

WHEREAS coordinated fire prevention, aggressive fuels reduction programs and strong initial attack resources remain critical; and

WHEREAS the increased risk of catastrophic wildfires throughout California threatens the lives, property and economic well-being of the people of the state; and

WHEREAS the increased risk of catastrophic wildfires throughout California may result in unplanned releases of air pollutants that adversely affect air and water quality, soil stability, populations of sensitive and endangered fish and wildlife species, and their habitat; and

WHEREAS the increased risk of catastrophic wildfires could significantly impact state efforts to reduce greenhouse gases by large uncontrolled emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases caused by wildfire; and

WHEREAS the United States Forest Service and Federal Emergency Management Agency have directed funding to assist in fuel removal and forest health improvement; and

WHEREAS augmentation of fire suppression resources during the previous five years in response to the extraordinary fire conditions has resulted in an overall reduction in the average acres burned (excluding the destructive Southern California Fire Siege in October 2003, which was exacerbated by Santa Ana wind conditions).

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby issue this order to become effectively immediately:

1. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) shall secure and deploy additional resources necessary, as determined by the Director, to protect the safety of persons and property from wildfires during the 2006 periods of elevated fire risk as follows:
 - Assign a minimum crew of four firefighters to selected CDF engines as warranted based on fire threat conditions.
 - Assign additional resources in the CDF Contract Counties as warranted based on fire threat conditions.
 - Staff two additional CDF Conservation Camp Fire Crews as warranted based on fire threat conditions.
 - Coordinate with the military for those resources that may be available for assistance during emergencies in California.
 - Assign additional fire safe inspectors where and when beneficial to reduce fire risk.
 - Assign fire lookouts during peak fire conditions as part of CDF staffing patterns.

- Increase dispatch and command functions at CDF Northern and Southern Operations centers and the CDF Sacramento Command Center when necessary to respond to significant fire events.
- 2. CDF shall accelerate fire safe clearance inspections by utilizing every second fire engine for inspections when not engaged in firefighting operations.
- 3. CDF shall obtain additional staffing as necessary to support a heightened level of fire prevention public awareness and education utilizing CDF Volunteers in Prevention, FireSafe Councils, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal.
- 4. CDF shall continue to expedite the processing of contracts and grants of federal funds to the communities as quickly as possible and support all local and regional responses to the bark beetle affected tree eradication and community emergency planning efforts.
- 5. The Office of Emergency Services (OES), in consultation and coordination with CDF, as fire threat conditions warrant, shall deploy OES fire engine strike teams to ensure a substantial response capability to any wildland fire situation in California, and that the costs of the deployment shall be reimbursed consistent with the California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid Plan and the California Fire Assistance Agreement.
- 6. The California National Guard shall prepare its fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, and pre-position ground support equipment as appropriate for immediate response to major wildfires and report to OES weekly on the status of all aircraft.
- 7. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, including the Division of Juvenile Justice, shall place the highest priority for assignment of level one inmates and wards to staff Conservation Camp Fire Crews.
- 8. The California Conservation Corps shall report to CDF daily on the status of all its support crews for response to wildfires.
- 9. OES shall review appropriate state departments to assure preparedness for response to wildfires.
- 10. CDF and OES shall work closely with federal, state and local government agencies, bordering states, and the government of Mexico to maximize California's fire prevention and fighting capabilities and to provide appropriate reciprocal assistance when requested.

This Order is not intended to, and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable in law or equity, against the State of California, its departments, agencies or other entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as soon as hereafter possible, this order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given to this order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 22nd day of June 2006.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of California

BRUCE McPHERSON, Secretary of State



EXECUTIVE ORDER S-6-05

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2003, a State of Emergency was proclaimed to address the extreme peril to the people, property and environment within the Counties of Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego. This emergency situation of imminent fire danger is caused by the extraordinary number of dead, dying and diseased trees resulting from prolonged drought, overstocked forests and infestation by bark beetles and other decay organisms; and

WHEREAS, the amount of dead and dying trees continues to increase, more than 150,000 additional trees died in 2004, bringing the total acres affected up to 247,000, a 36 percent increase over 2003. This represents a significant increase in the readily available fuel load which could result in catastrophic fires; and

WHEREAS, aggressive fuels reduction programs and strong initial attack resources remain critical; and

WHEREAS, the increased risk of catastrophic wildfires throughout Southern California threatens the lives, property and economic well-being of the people of the state; and

WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service and Federal Emergency Management Agency have directed funding to assist in fuel removal and forest health improvement; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the Counties of Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego have already taken significant actions to improve routes for the evacuation of people and facilitate emergency response; and

WHEREAS, augmentation of fire suppression resources during the previous four years in response to the extraordinary fire conditions has resulted in an overall reduction in the average acres burned (excluding the destructive Southern California Fire Siege in October 2003, which was exacerbated by Santa Ana wind conditions).

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby issue this order to become effectively immediately:

IT IS ORDERED that CDF shall secure and deploy additional resources as needed to protect the safety of persons and property from wildfires during the 2005 periods of elevated fire risk as follows:

- Assign a minimum crew of four firefighters to 53 CDF engines in the Counties of Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego.
- Assign additional resources in the CDF Contract Counties of Los Angeles, Ventura and Orange as warranted based on established criteria of fire threat conditions.
- Staff four additional CDF Conservation Camp Fire Crews in the Southern portion of the state.
- Lease, staff and deploy a helicopter to be based in San Diego County.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that CDF accelerate Fire Safe Clearance Inspections by utilizing every second fire engine for inspections when not engaged in firefighting operations.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that CDF obtain additional staffing as necessary to support a heightened level of fire prevention public awareness and education delivery utilizing CDF Volunteers in Prevention.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that CDF continue to expedite the processing of contracts and grants of federal funds to the communities as quickly as possible and support all local and regional responses to the bark beetle affected tree eradication and community emergency planning efforts.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that OES, in consultation and coordination with CDF, as fire threat conditions warrant, deploy

OES fire engine strike teams to ensure a substantial response capability to any wildland fire situation in California, and that the costs of the deployment shall be reimbursed consistent with the California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid Plan and the California Fire Assistance Agreement.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the California National Guard prepare its fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, and pre-position ground support equipment as appropriate for immediate response to major wildfires and report to OES weekly on the status of all aircraft.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the California Department of Corrections and the California Youth Authority place the highest priority for assignment of level one inmates and wards to staff Conservation Camp Fire Crews.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the California Conservation Corps report to CDF daily on the status of all its support crews for response to wildfires.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that OES review appropriate state departments to assure preparedness for response to wildfires.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that CDF and OES work closely with federal, state and local government agencies, bordering states, and the government of Mexico to maximize California's fire prevention and fighting capabilities and to provide appropriate reciprocal assistance when requested.

This Order is not intended to, and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable in law or equity, against the State of California, its departments, agencies or other entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as soon as hereafter possible, this order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given to this order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have here unto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this the twentieth day of July 2005.

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California



May 7, 2004

EXECUTIVE ORDER S-9-04

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2003, a State of Emergency was proclaimed to address the extreme peril to the people, property and environment within the Counties of Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego. This emergency situation of imminent fire danger is caused by the extraordinary number of dead, dying and diseased trees resulting from prolonged drought, overstocked forests and infestation by bark beetles and other decay organisms; and

WHEREAS, the amount of dead and dying trees continues to increase, more than 100,000 trees in a six-month period in 2003. In some areas 100% of existing conifer species have died including one-third of the trees in the San Bernardino National Forest and 181,128 acres of non-federal forestland; and

WHEREAS, the increased risk of catastrophic wildfires throughout Southern California threatens the lives, property and economic well-being of the people of the state; and

WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service and Federal Emergency Management Agency have directed funding to assist in fuel removal and forest health improvement; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the Counties of Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego have already taken significant actions to improve routes for the evacuation of people and facilitate emergency response; and

WHEREAS, augmentation of fire suppression resources during the past three years in response to the extraordinary fire conditions has resulted in an overall 70% fewer acres burned in 2001, 2002 and 2003 (excluding the destructive Southern California Fire Siege in October 2003, which was exacerbated by Santa Ana wind conditions).

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby issue this order to become effectively immediately:

IT IS ORDERED that CDF shall secure and deploy additional resources as needed to protect the safety of persons and property from wildfires during the 2004 fire season as follows:

- Assign a minimum crew of four firefighters to 53 CDF engines in the Counties of Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego;
- Assign additional resources in the CDF Contract Counties of Los Angeles, Ventura and Orange as warranted based on established criteria of fire threat conditions;
- Place back into service ten refurbished fire engines to be staffed with a minimum crew of four firefighters to increase CDF fire engine resources to assist with wildfire suppression in the Counties of Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego;
- Staff four additional CDF Conservation Camp Fire Crews in the Southern portion of the state;
- Lease, staff and deploy a helicopter to be based in San Diego County.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that CDF accelerate Fire Safe Clearance Inspections by utilizing every second fire engine for inspections when not engaged in firefighting operations.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that CDF obtain additional staffing as necessary to support a heightened level of fire prevention public awareness and education delivery utilizing CDF Volunteers in Prevention.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that CDF continue to expedite the processing of contracts and grants of federal funds to the communities as quickly as possible and support all local and regional responses to the bark beetle affected tree eradication and community emergency planning efforts;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that OES, in consultation with CDF, implement a program to predeploy, as fire threat conditions warrant, OES fire engine strike teams to ensure a substantial response capability to any wildland fire situation in Southern California, and that the costs of the deployment shall be reimbursed consistent with the California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid Plan and the California Fire Assistance Agreement.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the California National Guard prepare its fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, and preposition ground support equipment as appropriate for immediate response to major wildfires and report to OES weekly on the status of all aircraft.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the California Department of Corrections and the California Youth Authority place the highest priority for assignment of level one inmates and wards to staff Conservation Camp Fire Crews.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the California Conservation Corps report to CDF daily on the status of all its support crews for response to wildfires.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that OES review appropriate state departments to assure preparedness for response to wildfires.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that CDF and OES work closely with federal, state and local government agencies, bordering states, and the government of Mexico to maximize California's fire prevention and fighting capabilities.

This Order is not intended to, and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable in law or equity, against the State of California, its departments, agencies or other entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as soon as hereafter possible, this order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given to this order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have here unto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this the seventh day of May 2004.

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California



Glossary

- ANCHOR POINT** – An advantageous location, usually a barrier to fire spread, from which to start constructing a fireline.
- AREA COMMAND** – An organization established to: 1) oversee the management of multiple incidents that are each being handled by an incident management team (IMT) organization; or 2) to oversee the management of a very large incident that has multiple IMTs assigned to it. Area command has the responsibility to set overall strategy and priorities, allocate critical resources based on priorities, ensure that incidents are properly managed, and that objectives are met and strategies followed.
- AVERAGE BAD DAY** – Fire conditions experienced during typical mid-fire-season day. Used as a benchmark to gauge fire situations.
- BACKFIRE** – A fire suppression tactic. Any intentionally set fire used to consume the fuel in the path of a free burning wildfire.
- BIA** – Bureau of Indian Affairs
- BLM** – Bureau of Land Management
- BRITISH THERMAL UNIT (BTU)** – Amount of heat required to raise 1 pound of water 1 degree Fahrenheit (from 59.50 to 60.50 F), measured at standard atmospheric pressure.
- CAL FIRE** – California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- CALMAC** – California Multi-Agency Command. The information coordination center established in Sacramento. Tasked to gather timely information from regions, cooperating agencies, the media, the director, interested government leaders and the public.
- CDF** – California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- CHAINS PER HOUR** – A unit of measure commonly used to indicate the speed of the leading edge of fire as it moves across the landscape. One chain equals 66 feet. One chain per hour equals 66 feet per hour or approximately 1 foot per minute. A “chain” is a unit of distance measurement used in the public land survey system of the United States.
- CHIEF OFFICERS** – Agency Administrators, Fire Chiefs and other strategic level staff overseeing Incident Commanders.
- CONTAINMENT** – A fire is contained when it is surrounded on all sides by some kind of boundary but is still burning and has the potential to jump a boundary line.
- CONTROLLED** – A fire is controlled when there is no further threat of it jumping a containment line. While crews continue to do mop-up work within the fire lines, the firefight is over.
- CONVECTION COLUMN** – The rising column of gasses, smoke, fly ash, particulates and other debris produced by a fire.
- COOPERATING AGENCY** – An agency supplying assistance including but not limited to direct tactical or support functions or resources to the incident control effort.
- CROWN FIRE** – A fire that advances from top to top of trees or shrubs, more or less independently of the surface fire.
- DEFENSIBLE SPACE** – Creating a fire safe landscape for at least 30 feet around homes (and out to 100 feet or more in some areas), to reduce the chance of a wildfire spreading and burning through the structures. This is the basis for creating a “defensible space” - an area that will help protect your home and provide a safety zone for the firefighters who are battling the flames. It is required by California law.
- DIRECT ATTACK** – A method of fire suppression in which suppression activity takes place on or near the fire perimeter.
- DIRECT PROTECTION AREA (DPA)** – That area for which a particular fire protection organization has the primary responsibility for attacking an uncontrolled fire and for directing the suppression action.
- DRAW DOWN LEVEL** – The level where the success of extinguishing a fire with initial attack forces is compromised.
- ENERGY RELEASE COMPONENT (ERC)** – The computed total heat release per unit area (British thermal units per square foot) within the flaming front at the head of a moving fire.
- ESF4** – Emergency Support Function 4. A component of the National Response Framework developed for FEMA.
- ESRI** – Environmental Systems Research Institute. A software company that produces software that is widely used to produce Geographic Information Systems maps on emergencies for analysis and display.

EXTREME FIRE BEHAVIOR – “Extreme” implies a level of fire behavior characteristics that ordinarily precludes methods of direct control action. One or more of the following is usually involved: high rate of spread, prolific crowning and/or spotting, presence of fire whirls, strong convection column. Predictability is difficult because such fires often exercise some degree of influence on their environment and behave erratically, sometime dangerously.

FEDERAL NATIONAL TEAM – A Type 1 National Incident Management Team coordinated by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). Team members may be from various agencies. The California Wildfire Coordinating Group (CWCG) sponsors five of the 16 national teams.

FEDERAL REGIONAL TEAM – A Type 2 Incident Management Team maintained by the U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5, California and the Pacific Islands). Team members may be from various agencies.

FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY AREA (FRA) – the primary financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires is that of the Federal Government. These lands are generally protected by the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, National Parks Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency

FIRE DANGER RATING – A management system that integrates the effects of selected fire danger factors into one or more qualitative or numerical indices of current protection needs.

FIRE LINE – A strip of area where the vegetation has been removed to deny the fire fuel, or a river, a freeway or some other barrier which is expected to stop the fire. Hose lines from fire engines may also contribute to a fire being surrounded and contained.

FIRE PERIMETER – The entire outer edge or boundary of a fire.

FIRE REPORT – An official record of a fire, generally including information on cause, location, action taken, damage, costs, etc., from start of the fire until completion of suppression action. These reports vary in form and detail from agency to agency.

FIRE WEATHER – Weather conditions which influence fire ignition, behavior, and suppression.

FIRESCOPE – Firefighting Resources of California Organized for Potential Emergencies. A multi-agency coordination system designed to improve the capabilities of California's wildland fire protection agencies. Its purpose is to provide more efficient resource allocation and utilization, particularly in multiple or large fire situations during critical burning conditions.

FLANKS OF A FIRE – The parts of a fire's perimeter that are roughly parallel to the main direction of spread.

FMAG – Fire Management Assistance Grant. A federal assistance program managed by FEMA through the state Office of Emergency Services (OES). This program is designed to help state and/or local jurisdictions impacted by high cost, high damage wildland fires.

FUELS – Combustible material.

GACC – Geographical Area Coordination Center, see South Ops

GIS – Geographic Information System

HOTSHOT CREW – Intensively trained fire crew used primarily in hand line construction (Type-1).

INCIDENT COMMANDER – This ICS position is responsible for overall management of the incident and reports to the Agency Administrator for the agency having incident jurisdiction.

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS) – A standardized on-scene emergency management concept specifically designed to allow its user(s) to adopt an integrated organizational structure equal to the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents, without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries.

INCIDENT COMMAND TEAM (ICT) – see Incident Management Team

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM (IMT) – The incident commander and appropriate general and command staff personnel assigned to an incident. Also known as an Incident Command Team.

INDIRECT ATTACK – A method of fire suppression in which suppression activities takes place some distances from the fire perimeter, and often advantage of fire barriers.

INFRARED (IR) – A heat detection system used for fire protection, mapping, and hotspot identification.

INITIAL ATTACK (IA) – An aggressive suppression action taken by first arriving resources consistent with firefighter and public safety and values to be protected.

INTERFACE ZONE – It is the area where the wildlands come together with the urban areas. Also referred to as the I-Zone.

INTERMIX ZONE – It is areas where homes are interspersed among the wildlands. Also referred to as the I-Zone.

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER (JIC) – An interagency information center responsible for researching, coordinating and disseminating information to the public and media. Formed through the MAST.

LIVE FUEL MOISTURE CONTENT -Ratio of the amount of water to the amount of dry plant material in living plants.

LRA – Local Responsibility Area

MACS – (Multi-Agency Coordination System) Is a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications integrated into a common system with responsibility for coordination of assisting agency resources and support to agency emergency operations.

MAFFS – Modular Airborne Firefighting System (Refers to the Military aircraft, C-130s, which are used as Air Tankers)

MAST – Mountain Area Safety Taskforce.

MODIS – (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) – is a key instrument aboard the Terra and Aqua satellites. This instrument provided important intelligence for fire managers regarding fire perimeters and fire growth throughout the fire siege.

MOP-UP – Extinguishing or removing burning material near control lines, felling snags, and trenching logs to prevent rolling after an area has burned, to make a fire safe, or to reduce residual smoke.

MUTUAL THREAT ZONE (MTZ) – A geographical area between two or more jurisdictions into which those agencies would respond on initial attack. Also called mutual response zone or initial action zone.

NATIONAL FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM (NFDRS)- A uniform fire danger rating system that focuses on the environmental factors that control the moisture content of fuels.

NIFC – National Interagency Fire Center located in Boise, Idaho.

NPS – National Park Service

OES – The California Governor's Office of the Emergency Services.

OSC – (Operations Section Chief) The ICS position responsible for supervising the Operations Section. Reports to the Incident Commander. The OSC directs the preparation of unit operational plans, requests and releases resources, makes expedient changes to the Incident Action Plan as necessary and reports such to the Incident Commander.

PREDICTIVE SERVICES – Those Geographic Area and National-level fire weather or fire danger services and products produced by wildland fire agency meteorologists and intelligence staffs in support of resource allocation and prioritization.

PREPAREDNESS LEVELS – A national system of preparedness for incidents. The levels are 1 through 5. They are:

Preparedness Level 1 – Few or no active fires under 100 acres. Minimal or no commitment of fire resources. Low to moderate fire danger. Agencies above draw down levels.

Preparedness Level 2 – Numerous fires under 100 acres. Local commitment of resources for initial attack. Moderate fire danger. Agencies above drawdown levels and requests for resources outside local area are minimal.

Preparedness Level 3 – High potential for fires 100 acres & above to occur, with several 0-99 acre fires active. Fire danger moderate to very high. Mobilization of resources within the region and minimal requests outside of region. Agencies above or having difficulty maintaining draw down levels.

Preparedness Level 4 – Fires over 100 acres are common. Fire danger is high to very high. Resource mobilization is coming from outside the region. Agencies at minimum draw down levels.

Preparedness Level 5 – CALMAC is fully activated. Multiple large fires are common in the north and or the south. Fire danger is very high to extreme. Resources are being mobilized through the National Coordination Center. Activation of National Guard or military done or under consideration.

RED FLAG WARNING – Term used by fire weather forecasters to alert users to an ongoing or imminent critical fire weather pattern.

REHABILITATION – The activities necessary to repair damage or disturbance caused by wildfire or the wildfire suppression activity.

REOC - Regional Emergency Operations Center. A geographical coordination center consisting of staff, facilities and systems that administers or coordinates mutual aid. A region is an area made up of two or more counties.

ROSS - Resource Order and Status System: A national computer database system used by wildland fire agency dispatchers to track the current status of committed and available firefighting resources and to exchange mission-critical incident information between dispatch offices.

SANTA ANA WINDS – Is a type of Foehn wind. A Foehn wind is a warm, dry and strong general wind that flows down into the valleys when stable, high pressure air is forced across and then down the lee side slopes of a mountain range. The descending air is warmed and dried due to adiabatic compression producing critical fire weather conditions. Locally called by various names such as Santa Ana winds.

SOUTH OPS – The multi-agency geographic area coordinating center for Southern California. Located in Riverside, it is staffed by CDF, State OES and Federal fire agencies.

STRIKE TEAM - An engine strike team consists of five fire engines of the same type and a lead vehicle. The strike team leader is usually a captain or a battalion chief. Strike Teams can also be made up of bulldozers and handcrews.

SPOT FIRE OR SPOTTING – A small fire that is ahead of the main fire that is caused from hot embers being carried to a receptive fuel bed. Spotting indicates extreme fire conditions.

STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREA (SRA) - The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection classifies areas in which the primary financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires is that of the state. CDF has SRA responsibility for the protection of over 31 million acres of California's privately-owned wildlands.

SLOP-OVER – A fire edge that crosses a control line or natural barrier intended to confine the fire. Also called breakover.

UNIFIED COMMAND – In ICS, unified command is a unified team effort which allows all agencies with jurisdictional responsibility for the incident, either geographical or functional, to manage an incident by establishing a common set of incident objectives and strategies.

WFSA – Wildland Fire Situation Analysis

WILDLAND/URBAN INTERFACE – The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

Acknowledgements: Project Team

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