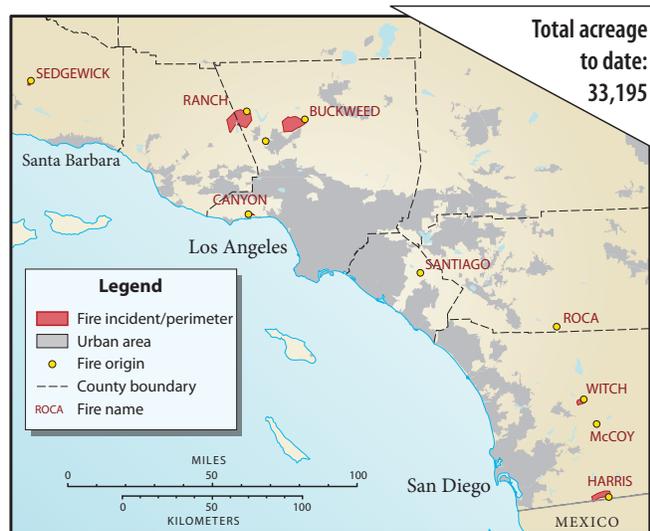


The Fires: Day 1

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.



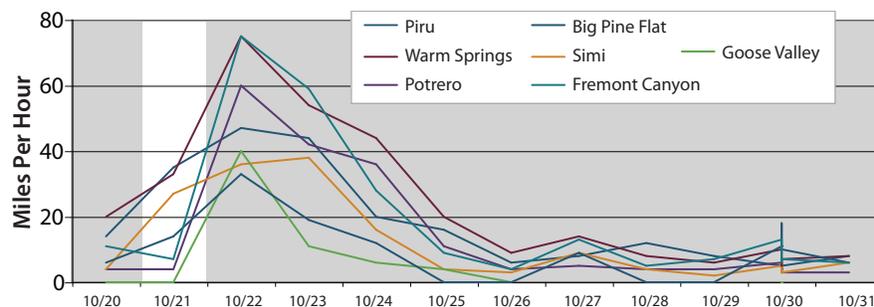
flights by lead plane pilots determine winds and turbulence are too great for air tanker operations, so only helicopter operations are planned. By afternoon, the Ranch Fire reports “extremely hellacious & erratic fire behavior,” driving the number of acres burned to 6,000, with 300 structures threatened.

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 a committed 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.

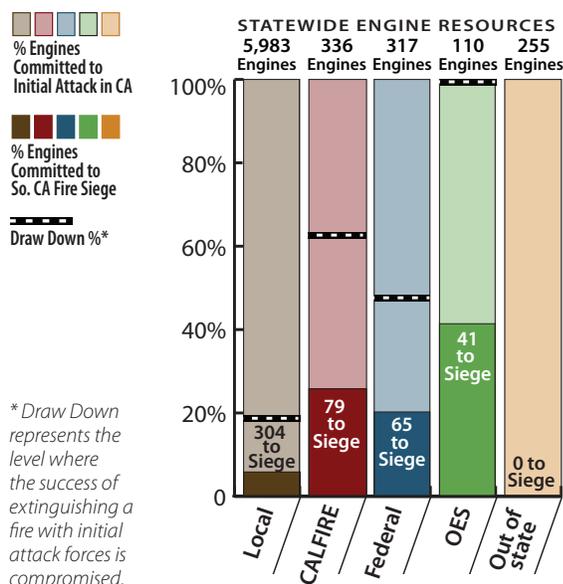
Farther to the south the **Harris Fire** is reported at 9:30 a.m. along Highway 94 near the U.S.-Mexico border town of Potrero in San Diego County. Strong winds hamper suppression efforts as the fire spreads rapidly in dry brush and grass. A second small fire in the area diverts resources briefly. By 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.

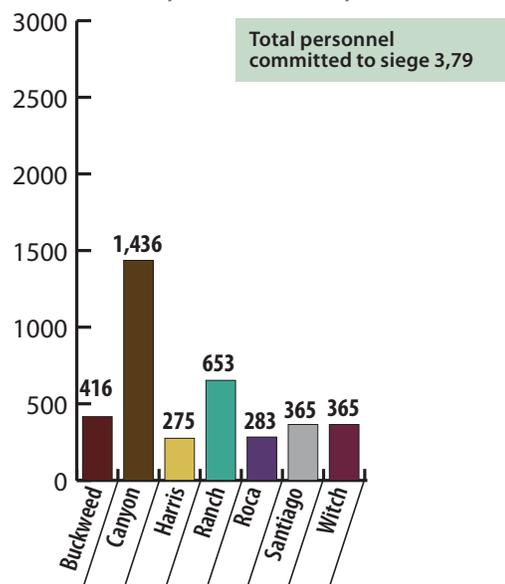
Resources Committed:

Engines, October 21, 2007



Resources Committed:

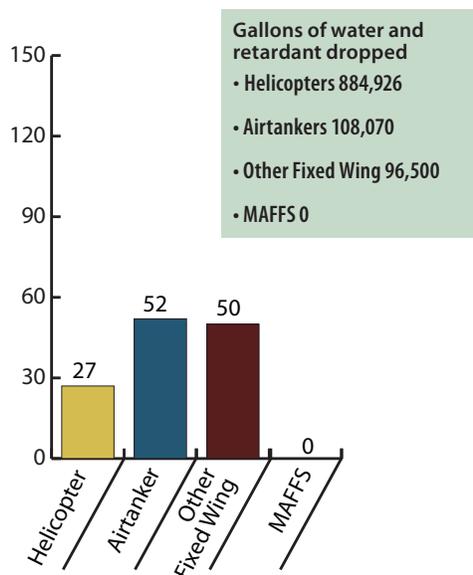
Personnel, October 21, 2007



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.



California Fire Siege October 21, 2007

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.