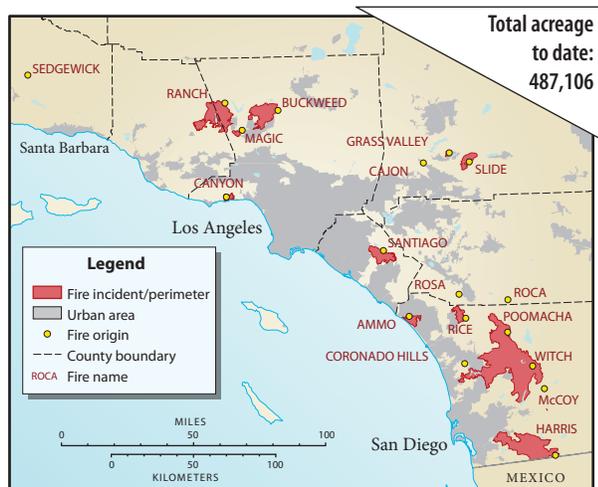


# The Fires: Day 5

■ Thursday, October 25, 2007



## 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.

■ 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 <sup>†</sup>	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
<b>Totals</b>		<b>247</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1,415</b>	<b>487,106</b>	

\* 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).

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.



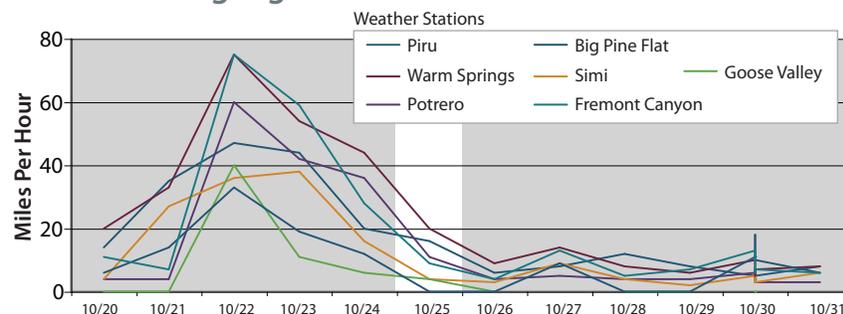
WES SCHULTZ

■ 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.

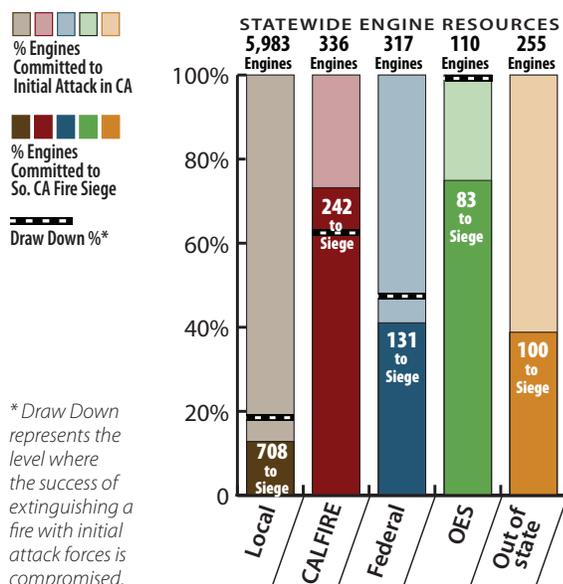
Changing wind patterns and critical fire weather, combined with problematic fuel and topographic conditions, produce very active fire behavior with rapid rates of spread on the **Santiago Fire**. The fire burns east to within one mile of Modjeska Peak. A contingency group is formed to triage extremely 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.

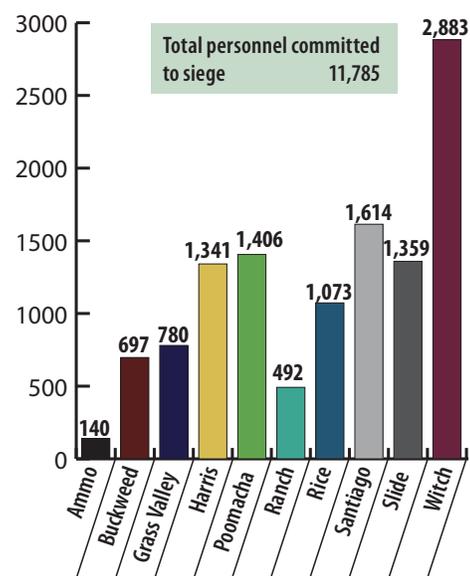
Riverside County develops a comprehensive strategic contingency plan in the event that the Rice, Poomacha, or Santiago fires cross into the county.

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.

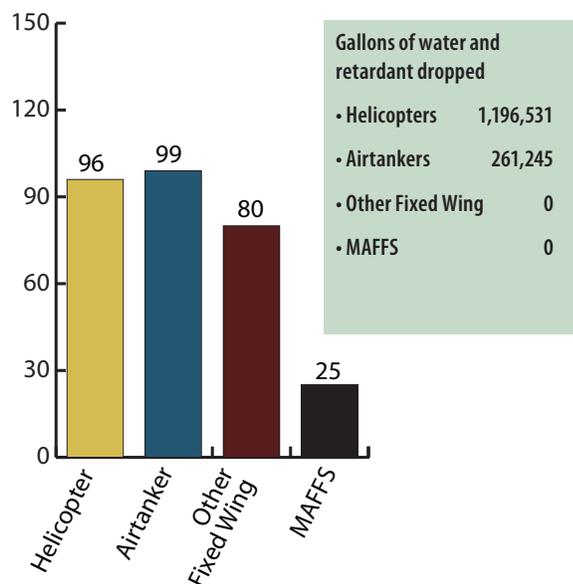
The **Ammo** Incident Team (Team 5) and the **Rice** Incident Team (Team 3) form a unified command to share incident base facilities with the North County Fire Protection District, including supplies and services.

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.