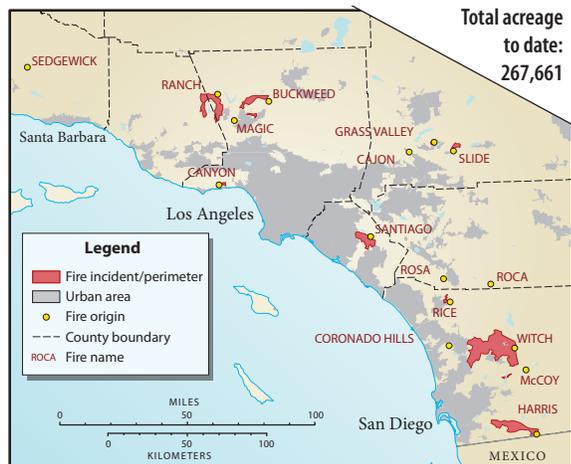


The Fires: Day 2

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.

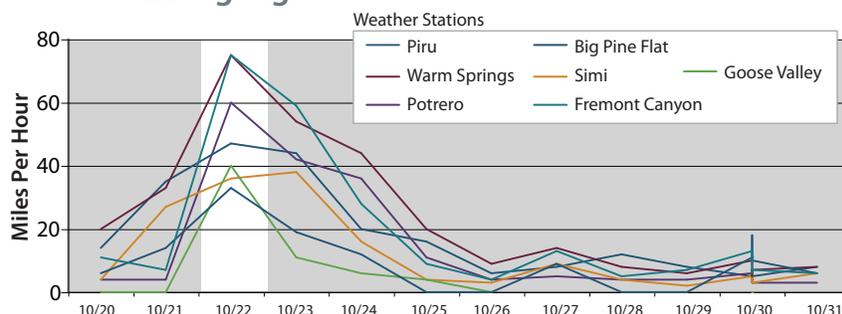
The **Rice Fire** is reported at 4:16 a.m. in Rice Canyon, north San Diego County burning in grass and brush with rapid fire spread and spotting. One structure burns and 250 structures are threatened. No mandatory evacuations are in place.

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.

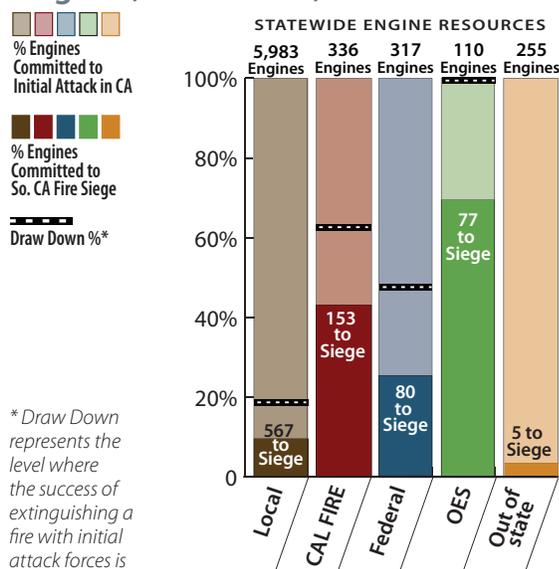
Morning reports from ongoing fires describe erratic fire behavior associated with extreme weather conditions. Thousands of homes are threatened and massive evacuations are underway.

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.

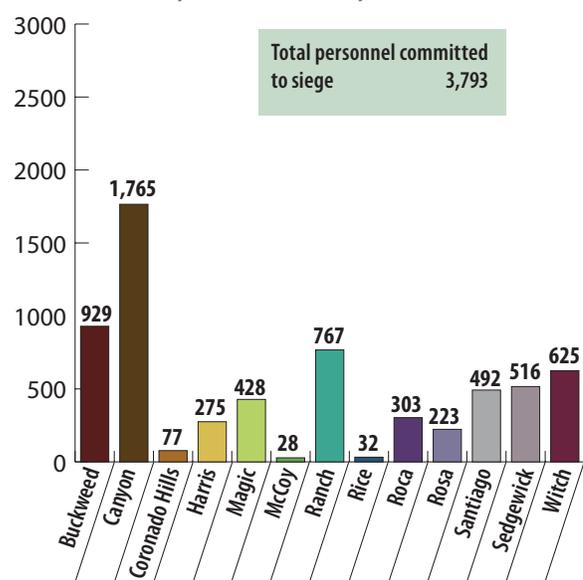
The **Witch Fire** continues to threaten many communities in the San Diego area and jumps Interstate-15 as it heads west. The fire is well established in the river drainage burning downhill, down canyon. Driven by 31 miles-per-hour winds, with gusts up to 47 miles-per-hour, spotting occurs up to 1/2 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



* Draw Down represents the level where the success of extinguishing a fire with initial attack forces is compromised.

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.

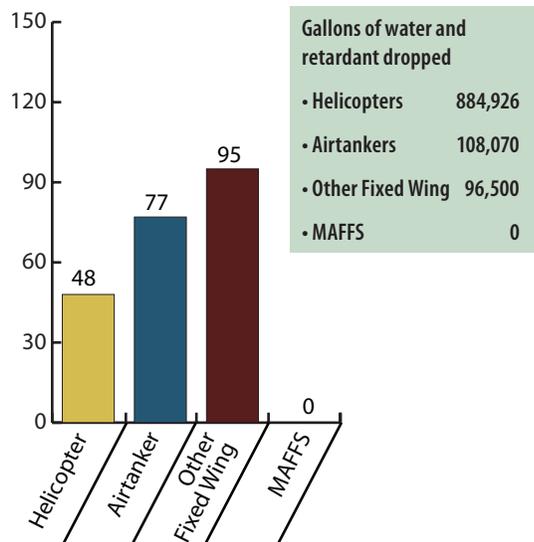
■ Governor Schwarzenegger directed inmate firefighters and staff from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to deploy firefighting resources to work with state and local firefighters.

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

California Fire Siege October 22, 2007

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.