



Attachment 6

Gottschalks files bankruptcy

## Fires sink air-quality reading

### Pollutants can make being outside difficult for some

By Dylan Darling  
Friday, June 20, 2008

Where there's wildfires, there's smoke.

And when there's smoke, there's bound to be worsening air quality in the north state -- especially with fire season in full swing. That smoky atmosphere is a clue that it could be time to curb outside activities, air officials said.

"If you can't see very far in front of you, it's obviously pretty unhealthy. So you should avoid doing much of anything," said Alan Abbs, Tehama County's air pollution control officer.

He said if you can see 10 miles, the air is likely clear; five- to 10-mile visibility means it has moderate pollution; and if you can see only three to five miles, the air is unhealthy.

Grassland and timber fires create particulate pollution -- tiny specks of soot and ash that can make breathing difficult for people with asthma and other ailments.

"The wildfires are the time when air quality gets its absolute worse," said Ross Bell, air quality district manager for Shasta County.

To check on visibility in and near Redding, Shasta County now has a camera feed set up on its Web site. Go to [www.co.shasta.ca.us](http://www.co.shasta.ca.us), click on County Departments, then choose Resource Management, then Air Quality Management District, and click on the link to the Shasta County Visibility Camera.

Air quality has dropped around the north state after the recent Humboldt Fire in Butte County and the Whiskey Fire in Tehama County. Bell said Saturday's pollution levels in Shasta County pushed the air quality index -- a color-coded system used by air officials to warn of health danger -- to orange, or when the air is considered unhealthy for sensitive groups of people, such as those with heart disease or those with respiratory diseases such as asthma.

Although the air has cleared now that those fires are out or mostly contained, more fires, and the poor air they bring, are on the horizon as summer starts Saturday.

But just because the sky is getting hazy doesn't mean that smoke is causing poor air, he said. Moisture could be moving into the north state, possibly from the ocean, causing the funk.

So Bell suggested using another sense to gauge whether air quality is on the decline -- smell. If people can smell smoke, there likely is pollution in the air.

While smoke can linger in the valley, it can become especially thick in the canyons of the north state's mountains.

In mountainous Trinity County, wildfires can cause weeks of smoke-filled skies.

Fires sink air-quality reading

"You are breathing that stuff," Bell said.

Reporter Dylan Darling can be reached at 225-8266 or at [ddarling@redding.com](mailto:ddarling@redding.com).



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## Crews handling Shasta County fires

By Record Searchlight staff

Originally published 02:48 p.m., June 24, 2008

Updated 02:48 p.m., June 24, 2008

Firefighters were holding the line Tuesday afternoon against the blazes burning in the mountains around Redding, a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokeswoman said.

“We’ve had a few flare-ups, and we’ve brought in the air tankers to hit them,” said Tracy Gouette, CalFire spokeswoman. “We’re holding with the resources we’ve got.”

Authorities have not ordered any new evacuations in Platina, Shingletown or other threatened areas, Gouette said.

Here are the latest stats on the Shasta County fires:

- Venture Fire: 1,000 acres, 40 percent contained
- Pine Fire: 1,000 acres
- Withrow Road Fire north of Shingletown: 200 acres, 30 percent contained
- Noble Fire near Platina: 1,000 acres
- Shingletown Fire: 475 acres, 80 percent contained
- Zogg Mine Fire: 74 acres, 80 percent contained



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# Red Bluff postpones Fourth of July fireworks show

By Record Searchlight staff  
Originally published 02:08 p.m., June 24, 2008  
Updated 02:08 p.m., June 24, 2008

RED BLUFF -- Citing high fire danger and poor air quality, the Red Bluff Fire Department has decided to postpone the annual Independence Day fireworks show, set for July 4 above Red Bluff River Park, until further notice.

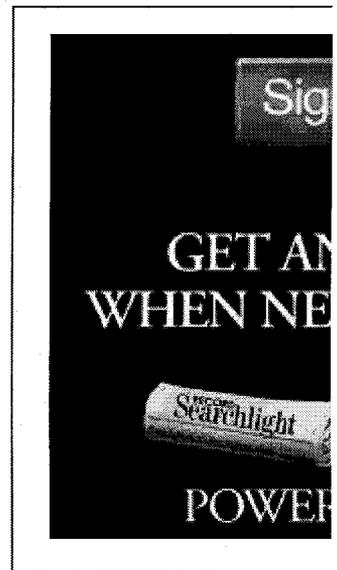
The department notes that "safe and sane" fireworks are legal in Tehama County, but strongly discourages their use at this time.

"Safe and sane fireworks can be displayed on any day of the year in Tehama County, therefore, the Red Bluff Fire Department asks that you wait until conditions are more favorable and safer before lighting any fireworks in the area," a department press release said.

"This is simply the wrong time to be igniting fireworks in our community," city Fire Chief Gerry Gray said in a statement.

For more information, call the fire department at 527-1126.

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**Comments**

Posted by reesespiece1963 on June 24, 2008 at 2:45 p.m.

Reply to this post

Then close down all sales for protection.

(Suggest removal)

Posted by RPMcMurphy on June 24, 2008 at 3:50 p.m.

Reply to this post

Nice plan. Stop all sales. Now all the people who count on the sales as income are SOL. What do they do when their bills come due on the fireworks they ordered? Stop sales because someone may do something stupid? Using that logic we should take away everyone's car.

(Suggest removal)

Posted by BearMtBiker on June 24, 2008 at 4:26 p.m.

Reply to this post

We were down in Bakersfield last week/end, it had been a looonng time since I've seen a gazillion Fireworks stands, 'course they have little to burn down there. It's already brown/dead, all the rivers that I saw were empty except for the Kings R.

(Suggest removal)

Posted by Baseball on June 24, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.

Reply to this post

Murph- It's called a 'risk of doing business'. Common sense trumps a seasonal sales booth. Send the goods back for a credit. It happens all the time.

(Suggest removal)

Posted by pk5000 on June 24, 2008 at 9:36 p.m.

Reply to this post

Is Redding and Anderson making the same decision?

(Suggest removal)

Posted by Dustybottoms2 on June 24, 2008 at 10:48 p.m.

Reply to this post

I'm sure glad that global warming thing was a hoax!

(Suggest removal)

Posted by JustBob on June 25, 2008 at 6:42 a.m.

Reply to this post

In this day and age ANY sales or use of fireworks are foolish. It is time for Tehama County to wise up and permanently ban all sales and use of these dangerous, amateur fireworks.

(Suggest removal)

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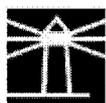
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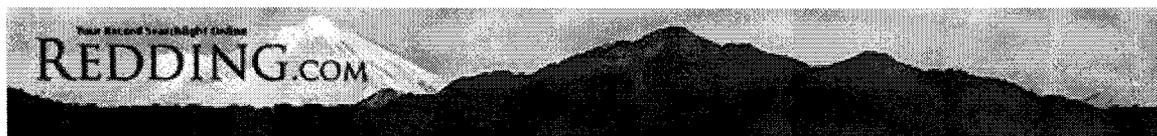
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## Updated: Tehama fires growing, but not threatening any structures

By Record Searchlight staff

Originally published 12:35 p.m., June 24, 2008

Updated 12:35 p.m., June 24, 2008

Some 4,629 acres are on fire in Tehama County, torched by Saturday's lightning storm.

The two largest blazes are burning on steep slopes in the Paynes Creek area, but not threatening any structures or livestock, a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesperson said.

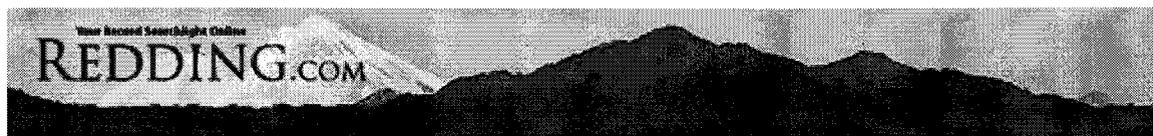
The Antelope Creek fire has consumed 1,450 acres of brush and chaparral off of Highway 36 south of Paynes Creek. That fire was 15 percent contained, according to CalFire.

The Mill Creek fire has charred over 2,000 acres in the same area with no containment. Rugged terrain will force crews to walk in, the CalFire spokesperson said.

A firefighter suffered a cut finger that required stitches.



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## Siskiyou fires grow

By Record Searchlight staff

Originally published 11:30 a.m., June 24, 2008

Updated 11:30 a.m., June 24, 2008

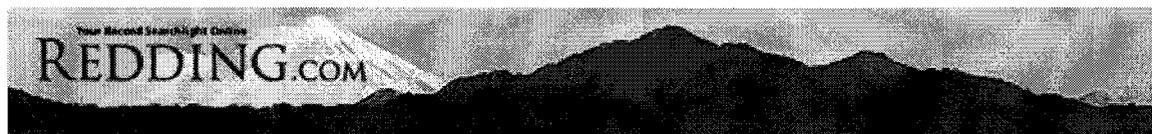
Firefighters in the Klamath National Forest continued today to battle five blazes in far rural Siskiyou County.

Vern Farrell, a fire spokesman, said the fires overnight grew to more than 1,400 acres.

The blazes are scorching heavy timber country, in an area around a 45-minute drive southwest of Happy Camp north of the Marble Mountain Wilderness Area.



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## Updated information released on Shasta County fires

By Record Searchlight staff

Originally published 11:16 a.m., June 24, 2008

Updated 11:48 a.m., June 24, 2008

Firefighters are continuing to battle more than 100 fires in and around Redding today. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesman Roy Del Carlo said no homes or structures have burned. Listed below is updated information Del Carlo provided at 10:40 a.m. for some of the bigger fires:

### **The Venture Fire**

Del Carlo said this is still holding at 1,000 acres. It's 40 percent contained. Del Carlo said no structures were lost and evacuation orders have been lifted for residents on Cassel Road. Residents on Sandpit Road are still being kept away. Highways 299 and 89 are open. There have been no injuries reported

### **Shingletown fires:**

Del Carlo said new updates on these fires were not available. At last update, he said the fire was 80 percent contained and holding at 475 acres. Evacuations are still in place and road closures remain the same. On Sunday, some 30 to 40 residents were evacuated.

Parts of Wilson Hill Road, Lake Ridge Drive, Mobile Park Drive, Woodridge Drive and Shingletown Ridge Roads were closed, the Shasta County Sheriff's office reported.

### **Kirkman Fire:**

Del Carlo said this fire off of Highway 44 near Dersch Road is holding at 2,400 acres. No structures have been lost.

### **Donkey Mine:**

This blaze south of Highway 299 and west of Oak Run Road is holding at 360 acres. No structures are lost or threatened at this point, Del Carlo said.

### **Democrat Fire:**

This fire burning near the town of Keswick is holding at 360 acres, Del Carlo said. No structures are threatened.

"We still have restrictions on Iron Mountain Road north of Rock Creek Road," Del Carlo said.

### **Pine Fire**

Del Carlo said this fire, formerly called the Backbone Ridge Fire, in the Jones Valley area is holding at 850 acres. No structures have been lost, but Del Carlo said he didn't have an estimate on how much of the fire had been contained. Residents on Monday had been given notice that they may need to evacuate if the fire shifted. Del Carlo said that advisement stands.

**Kilarc Reservoir fire:**

A 20-acre blaze burning near the Pacific Gas and Electric Co.-owned lake has not moved much since Monday. There are no homes threatened, Del Carlo said.

**Zogg Mine:**

This fire in the Igo-Ono area is largely contained at 74 acres, Del Carlo said. No structures have been lost. However, worries that a fire near Platina might spread toward the Ono have residents on edge. They've been given notice they may need to evacuate.

**Whiskeytown Complex:**

Carol Jandrall, a spokeswoman for Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, said fire crews from Oregon and elsewhere have doubled the park's fire fighting resources.

Crews are fighting four fires totaling more than 1,250 acres on Shasta Bally. Public access to the park has been limited. For more information on the fires and for specific closures in the park, [click here](#).



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## Power restored in Shingletown

By Record Searchlight staff

Originally published 11:15 a.m., June 24, 2008

Updated 11:15 a.m., June 24, 2008

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. crews restored power early this morning to some 3,800 customers in the Shingletown area.

Crews had to use bulldozers to replace five utility destroyed by fire. Those poles support a 60,000-volt transmission line linking a substation that feeds power to customers from Shingletown to Mineral, PG&E spokesman Paul Moreno said.

Other towns affected by the outage were Manton, Paynes Creek, Mill Creek and Dale.

Six PG&E customers scattered through Shasta County were still without power late this morning because of the fires, Moreno said.



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## Updated information released on National Forest Service fires

By Record Searchlight staff

Originally published 10:44 a.m., June 24, 2008

Updated 10:44 a.m., June 24, 2008

Over 8,000 acres are burning in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Here is information from the U.S. Forest Service, updated as of 9 a.m.:

### **Lime Complex:**

Crews are fighting 70 fires ranging from several acres to over 700 acres in southeastern Trinity County near Hyampom and far southwestern Shasta County near Platina. All told, fires have consumed an estimated 7,000 acres, with containment pegged at 10 percent.

Major blazes in the Lime Complex include the Noble Fire, which is threatening the Beegum Gorge area near Platina, and the Slide Fire, which is threatening Hyampom.

The Shasta County Sheriff's Department ordered evacuation of the Russian Orthodox Monastery one mile south of Platina. Other evacuations are possible in Platina and in parts of the Hyampom Valley.

Some 656 firefighters are battling the Lime Complex with help from 30 engines, 13 water tenders, 10 bulldozers and six helicopters. Lime Complex command post sits in Hayfork.

### **Iron Complex:**

A total of 36 fires have consumed roughly 1,060 acres so far in northeastern Trinity County. About 11 of these fires are burning in the Trinity Alps Wilderness, where crews can fight the flames using only hand tools. Fires could eventually threaten the communities of Corral Bottom, Denny, Burnt Ranch and Brooks Ranch if they keep growing. Command post sits in Junction City.

### **SHF June Lightning Complex:**

Out of 31 lightning-sparked blazes in Trinity County, seven are out and 21 are under control. Others have been absorbed by the Lime Complex or the Iron Complex.



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## Fire briefings postponed

By Record Searchlight staff

Originally published 09:28 a.m., June 24, 2008

Updated 09:28 a.m., June 24, 2008

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection officials have postponed a briefing on current fire conditions.

New information won't be available to almost 10 a.m., said Roy Del Carlo, a Cal Fire spokesman.

It's the second time this morning information has been delayed.

Originally, updated fire information was to be available at 8 a.m.



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## Highways reopened near Burney

By Record Searchlight staff

Originally published 08:17 a.m., June 24, 2008

Updated 08:17 a.m., June 24, 2008

States highways 299 and 89 in the Burney area are open again this morning after authorities closed those roads around midnight because of the 1,000-acre Cassel fire.

Residents of the area were evacuated Monday afternoon.

There were no updates on that fire early this morning. A California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said updated information will be available later this morning.

This story will be updated as information becomes available.



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## Updated: Evacuations ordered near Platina

Some 1,500 residences, 300 outbuildings and two commercial buildings are threatened by the Noble Fire in Platina, where evacuations are under way.

Highway 36 is closed from the Wildwood Store to Highway 3 and a nearby monastery has been evacuated, spokespersons for the U.S. Forest Service said early this afternoon. The fire was about a mile away from the town of Platina at noon.

The fire is one of 70 that are part of the Lime Complex, which has blackened 7,000 acres and has cost an estimated \$1.8 million to fight so far, said forest service spokeswoman Suzi Johnson.

Igo and Ono in Shasta County also have been warned of possible evacuations.

"It depends on which way the wind is blowing," said Johnson. She said evacuations could be ordered today or some time in the next two or three days.

Johnson said one person was injured some time Monday night, but she didn't know whether that person was a firefighter or area resident.

A California Department of Forestry and Fire spokeswoman said earlier today that the cause of the 2,000-acre blaze is not known.

Cindy Benson-Neslen was one of several Platina area residents who congregated at the Platina store today just off Highway 36 near Platina Road.

"Everybody is pretty much loaded up," she said, adding that all she has to do is grab her dog and go.

Benson-Neslen said residents are making sure their gas tanks are full before they are ordered to leave.

Cliff Bloom, who lives in the Trinity Alps Preserve, brought his chickens.

"We just wanted to get our livestock here and go back up and beef up our firebreak," he said.

Store owner Tom Smith said the store is becoming sort of a makeshift temporary evacuation center.

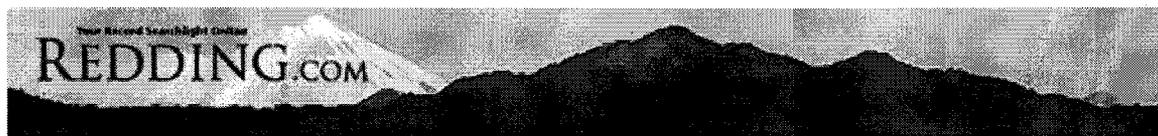
"We'll probably have 20 people in here in an hour," Smith said at about 10:30 a.m. "Or maybe a 100."

Ono residents have received a notice that they might have to evacuate if the fires in Platina head their way.

This story will be updated as information becomes available.



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## Crews focus on fires nearing rural towns

By Ryan Sabalow  
Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Residents watched and worried as smoke filled their neighborhoods and firetrucks wound along rural roads as firefighters Monday continued to battle hundreds of lightning-caused blazes in the north state.

While a typical summer lightning storm will spark from eight to 25 fires, the storm that rolled through over the weekend caused more than 100 blazes in the 2.1 million-acre Shasta-Trinity National Forest, said Mike Odle, a U.S. Forest Service spokesman.

"We got pummeled," he said.

Because of the magnitude of the fires, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Monday declared a state of emergency in Trinity County.

In the Southern Trinity

County community of Hyampom, many of the town's 300 residents told forest officials they want to ride out the fires, Odle said.

The Forest Service was planning to haul in pallets of meals ready-to-eat (MREs) and water today.

Similarly, at least 153 fires were burning in Shasta County, said Roy Del Carlo, a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesman. Several threatened homes.

Del Carlo said the multitude of fires has depleted fire crews, and firefighting efforts are focused on flames threatening communities.

Here's a rundown of blazes firefighters were battling Monday night:

### **Shasta County fires**

Fire agency officials gave the following updates Monday night on fires Cal Fire is battling in Shasta County.

#### **The Venture Fire**

The most immediate threat to structures, this fire is burning about 1,000 acres south of Highway 299 east of Highway 89. Fire officials had no estimated containment. The evacuations are in an area near Cassel and Sand Pit roads, Del Carlo said.

Highway 299 is closed near the Four Corners area.

An evacuation center was set up at Burney High School.

**Shingletown Fire**

Some residents were allowed to return home after more than 24 hours under evacuation order, but a "flare-up" forced fire crews to again keep residents away, Del Carlo said.

On Sunday, some 30 to 40 residents were evacuated from Pine Ridge Park Estates, Woodridge Estates and other neighborhoods.

As of Monday night, the Shingletown Fire had burned 475 acres and was 80 percent contained. American Red Cross Shasta Chapter volunteers were caring for the evacuees, who had been given shelter overnight at the Black Butte schools.

Brandi Ehoers, a Pacific Gas and Electric Co. spokeswoman, said power was to be restored to 4,000 customers by Monday night. Those people had been without power since early this Monday morning.

Parts of Wilson Hill Road, Lake Ridge Drive, Mobile Park Drive, Woodridge Drive and Shingletown Ridge Roads were closed, the Shasta County Sheriff's Office reported.

**Kirkman Fire**

The 2,400-acre blaze, earlier called the Bear Creek Fire, is burning northwest of Highway 44 off Dersch Road. There is no estimated containment. No structures are immediately threatened, Cal Fire officials said.

Residents are being given a "cautionary evacuation notice," meaning they're advised to gather together important belongings in case an evacuation order is called, officials said.

**Donkey Mine Fire**

This fire between Ingot and Oak Run has burned about 300 acres, incident commander Garrett Quigley said Monday.

The blaze is burning through stands of 20-foot high manzanita in a remote area south of Highway 299 and west of Oak Run Road, said Quigley, a Cal Fire captain with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. No structures were threatened.

Quigley said he hopes to surround the fire before it reaches the highway, but changing winds could hamper that effort. Bulldozers are cutting the fire line, he said.

Firefighting efforts at other fires north of Highway 299 also could affect his plans, he said.

**The Democrat Fire**

This fire near the town of Keswick is burning 360 acres.

So far, no homes are threatened, but there are numerous residences in the area. Residents in Shasta and Keswick have been told they may have to evacuate if the fire spreads, Del Carlo said.

**Pine Fire**

This fire, earlier called the Backbone Ridge Fire, is burning behind Jones Valley near Lake Shasta. It grew Monday to more than 850 acres, officials said.

There are no structures threatened at this time, but residents in the Seamen Gulch Road area have been warned that they might have to evacuate, Del Carlo said.

**Kilarc-area fire**

Firefighters were battling a 20-acre blaze near Kilarc Reservoir in the area of Fern and Tamarack roads between Oak Run and Whitmore, Del Carlo said. No information on this blaze was available Monday.

**Zogg Mine Road**

This fire that burned around 74 acres in the Igo-Ono area Sunday was 80 percent contained Monday, officials said.

However, several small fires were burning along hard-to-access ridges near the fire and in the Bully Choop area, officials said.

**Whiskeytown National Recreation Area**

Carol Jandrall, a spokeswoman for Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, said the park's 40-person fire crew is battling four blazes within its boundaries and the fires expanded Monday to 1,200 acres.

Three of the fires total at least 190 acres. They would be visible from Redding on Shasta Bally if the mountain wasn't shrouded in smoke. Another 500-acre fire is burning on the southwest side of Shasta Bally, Jandrall said. No structures were threatened.

With so many fires burning so close to homes around the area, park firefighters are largely on their own, Jandrall said.

"We're a low priority because we don't have people or property threatened," she said. "We're doing the best we can with what we have."

Some roads, trails and campsites were inaccessible. Call 242-3461 for more information.

**Shasta-Trinity National Forest**

Here's an update from the U.S. Forest Service based on information collected Monday evening.

**Lime Complex**

The 70 fires in the complex range in size from 1 to 700 acres and have burned about 6,400 acres near Hayfork. Although 18 of 70 fire starts were contained, they were small, so the overall complex was still considered at 10 percent contained. The fires destroyed the Limesdyke Lookout and threaten 1,200 structures in and near Hyampom, about 85 miles from Redding. No evacuations are in effect and about 610 firefighters are assigned to the complex.

**Iron Complex**

The 36 fires in the complex have burned 1,060 acres near Junction City. Eight of the 36 fires are fully contained, and the complex is considered 5 percent contained. Half of the fires are burning in the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area, meaning only hand tools can be used to fight them. About 250 firefighters are assigned to the complex and no evacuations are in effect.

**Lightning Complex**

The 31 fires in the complex are spread around the rest of the forest, from Lake Shasta to Mount Shasta to near Weaverville. They have burned about 150 acres. Two of the fires are fully contained, 14 are partially contained, and the complex is considered 15 percent contained. No structures are threatened.

**Tehama County**

Around 2,800 acres had burned in rural Tehama County as of Monday afternoon, said Mickie Jakez, a Tehama County Cal Fire spokeswoman.

All were in rural areas and no structures were threatened.

Fires ranged from fewer than 100 acres to more than 1,000 in the Antelope, Mill, Salt and Paynes creeks areas.

### **Siskiyou County**

Firefighters in the Klamath National Forest battled five blazes in far rural Siskiyou County.

Spokesman Tom Lavagnino said around 146 firefighters are fighting the Siskiyou Complex.

The blazes have burned more than 500 acres in heavy timber country, in an area around a 45-minute drive southwest of Happy Camp, Lavagnino said.

Reporter Ryan Sabalow can be reached at 225-8344 or at [rsabalow@redding.com](mailto:rsabalow@redding.com).



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## Fires continue to grow

By Record Searchlight staff

Originally published 10:40 p.m., June 30, 2008

Updated 10:40 p.m., June 30, 2008

Fires on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest continued to spread Monday, with efforts focused on protecting the communities of Hawkins Bar and Trinity Village.

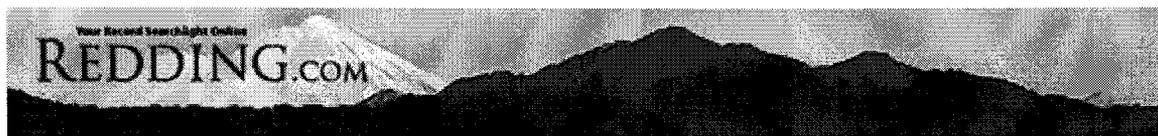
As of Monday evening, the Iron Complex had grown to 18,117 acres and was 25 percent contained. U.S. Forest Service officials said that Highway 299 could close intermittently as crews work to keep the highway free of debris.

The Lime Complex had grown to 35,455 acres and was 36 percent contained.

The Alps Complex grew to 2,650 acres and was 2 percent contained.



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## Smoke sends more to the doctor

### Area clinics, ERs see patient increase as haze lingers

By Ryan Sabalow  
Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Cough. Sniff. Wheeze.

Such sounds have become all too common in area emergency rooms and walk-in clinics.

Officials at Redding hospitals say they've seen between a 10 percent to 15 percent increase in visits, as patients seek help for lungs ravaged by air so thick that on some nights smoky halos form around street lights and neon signs.

"It's starting to affect their long-term health," said Suzie Wood, spokeswoman for Shasta Regional Medical Center.

Wood said the hospital's ER has seen an estimated 12 percent to 15 percent increase in patients since a freak lightning storm in late June ignited fires around the state, gagging the far northern Sacramento Valley with smoke.

Patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma and emphysema make up the bulk of the increase in visits, she said.

At Mercy Medical Center in Redding, ER doctors have seen about a 10 percent increase in patients with respiratory troubles -- most of them asthma sufferers, said Stephanie Stringfield, Mercy's interim ER director.

Stringfield, a registered nurse, said the majority of patients had chronic asthma before the fires. The smoky skies exacerbated the problem, she said.

The problem isn't going to get better any time soon either, despite clear skies over the weekend and early this week following a Friday that broke the Shasta County bad air record.

On Monday, air quality was listed as good, but Brenda Belongie, a forecaster for the Redding Fire Weather Center, said smoke should roll in again on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, doctors advise those sensitive to bad air to follow what's become a mantra in the local press since the fires erupted:

Stay indoors and avoid strenuous activity.

"This isn't the time to start your new exercise program," said Dr. Jeff Bosworth, a family practice doctor for Shasta Community Health Center's Anderson clinic.

Reporter Ryan Sabalow can be reached at 225-8344 or at [rsabalow@redding.com](mailto:rsabalow@redding.com).



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# Smoke stymies outdoor activities, frustrates athletes

By Jessica Skropanic (Contact)  
Thursday, July 24, 2008

Smoke gets in your eyes -- and nose and lungs ...

After four weeks of smoke from raging wildfires, north state residents who take advantage of outdoor activities have been left with the taste of ash in their mouths.

And some outdoor enthusiasts say they're tired of staying indoors.

"With the poor air quality due to the smoke, I've done very little hiking, and with Whiskeytown Lake closed and Lake Shasta at devastatingly low water levels, I haven't been boating or water skiing. I haven't been fly-fishing in Shasta County since the fires," said Susan Herrgesell, president of Becoming an Outdoors-Woman, California.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reported that the air quality between Eureka and Redding in mid-July reached code "purple," meaning "very unhealthy air quality." The EPA's advice was to "cut back on strenuous outdoor exercise."

Decrease in member participation has outdoor clubs feeling singed.

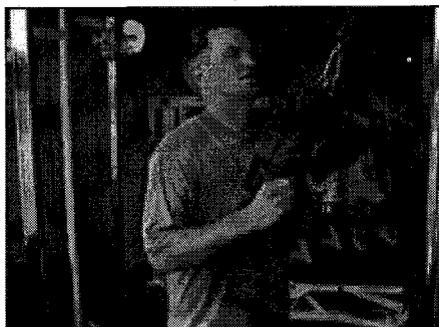


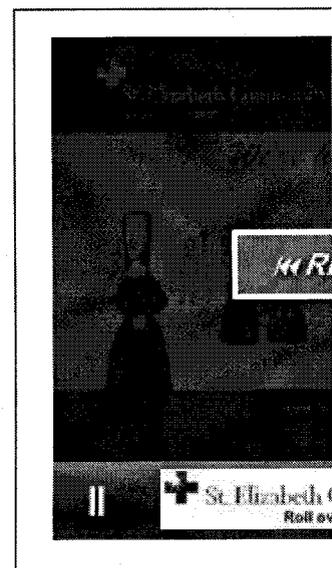
Photo by Greg Barnette / Record Searchlight

Redding Christian High School soccer coach Chris Holt works out Friday at YMCA in Redding. The smoke from north state wildfires has pushed many athletes indoors.

### Air quality information

• Environmental Protection Agency AirNow: [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov). The Web site includes interactive maps, a description of the EPA's air-quality index and health tips.

• University of Maryland, Baltimore County's Smog Blog: [www.alg.umbc.edu/usaq](http://www.alg.umbc.edu/usaq).



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"This has been frustrating for our club members and (for) me personally," said Jeff Worthington of We Ski II.

"Our club has had to cancel all of our events in the past month, which includes over a half-dozen activities involving either mountain biking, hiking or kayaking in the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and hiking in the Mt. Shasta area.

"In my eight years as a member, I cannot remember a time when we have had to cancel so many events in a row," he said.

Some outdoor lovers have stayed indoors to remain active.

"Like me, a lot of our club members enjoy being outdoors, so it's not that easy for us to go to our indoor fitness clubs and work on stationary machines," Worthington said.

Redding fitness centers such as Fit One Athletic Club have seen a spike in membership, said Fit One's membership coordinator Michael Hare.

"This is (usually) the slow season for the fitness industry. Everyone wants to be outdoors," Hare said. "Right now, our numbers excel our projection point -- I would say (by) 30 percent."

Many members who usually leave Fit One during the summer have returned, Hare said.

"They say, 'I can't do anything outdoors anymore,'" Hare said. "A lot of bikers who put their memberships on hold for the summer have taken them off hold so they can take the spinning class."

Some people, however, have braved the outdoors on clearer days.

"I have managed to put together two or three runs in the past month in Redding on the slightly better air-quality days," Worthington said.

Gail Bloxham of the Cottonwood Creek Equestrian Center said she also has to consider the health of her equine athletes.

"Horses were lightly exercised when the smoke was not as heavy," Bloxham said. "We try to do everything outside early in the mornings and late afternoon while the smoke has lifted."

Desire for outdoor activity has motivated some outdoors enthusiasts to hit the road.

"My wife and I have taken a couple of trips out of town this past month and taken full advantage of the clean air in those places by running and hiking in the Stinson Beach/Mt. Tamalpais area last month, and most recently enjoying some hiking and running in the Portland/Vancouver area," Worthington said.

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But even other areas of California have been affected by smoke from other fires.

"A couple of weeks ago I had to take a trip to Southern California ... and couldn't believe the amount of smoke all of the way south, through Bakersfield," Herrgesell said. "Just over the Grapevine it cleared up. Very sad having to travel to Southern California for a breath of fresh air."

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