

APPENDIX G

MEDIA COVERAGE

JUNE 2008

JUNE 2008



News Archives

LIGHTNING SPARKS FIRES IN THE NORTH STATE

Sat, 06/21/2008 - 19:29

As many as 75 wildfires sparked by lightning storms are burning in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest near Redding, in far northern California.

Forest Service Spokesman Michael Odle says none of the fires are immediately threatening homes.

The fires began overnight Friday. They now range from less than an acre in size to more than 750 acres.

Strike teams moved in Saturday on the two largest fires. One is burning near Junction City, the other near LimeDyke Mountain.

More than 20 smokejumpers - firefighters that parachute into remote areas to battle wildfires - have been deployed.

Tehama County cal-fire says they have 75 fires in their area.

We also have reports of one fire threatening homes.

It's in Tehama County on Highway 36 near Payne's Creek and a half mile from Ponderosa Sky Ranch.

It's 6 spot fires started by lightning.

No evacuations have been ordered, but the Tehama County sheriff's office has been alerted.

Cal Fire reports some containment, and some of the threat is diminishing.

Fires Rage Across North State

Sun, 06/22/2008 - 20:09

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has called on the National Guard to help firefighters as they battle flames all across northern California.

HERE ARE SOME UPDATES ON SOME OF THE FIRES THAT ARE BURNING RIGHT NOW:

Mandatory evacuations are in place right now in the Shingletown area.

The first mandatory evacuation location is near Pine Ridge Estates and Wilson Hill Road. The second mandatory evacuation location is near Bear Creek and Highway 44.

Precautionary evacuations near Donkey Mine Road and Woodridge Drive.

The fire is about 10 percent contained; right now it has burned a total of 400 acres. The Red Cross has set up a shelter at Black Butte Elementary on Ponderosa Way.

Additional fires burning near Lake Concow in Butte County.

Precautionary evacuations have been issued for hundreds of people and about 3 fires are burning in several isolated spots...all in the Concow area.

In the Hayfork area there are over 50 different spot fires, ranging from 1 acre to 200 acres. The total size is over 1,500 acres, focused 5 miles south of Hyampom.

North of Hayfork, two fire management teams arrived today in Junction City looking to help as crews tried to gain control of the Iron Complex.

The fires are just off of Highway 299, north of Weaverville. In this area there are 34 fires, some of which are un-staffed due to steep terrain. Another fire broke out Sunday on Shasta Bally, this one on the south side of the mountain. The smaller fire from Saturday is headed towards Shasta Bally Road, with a truck trying to contain the fire there; with resources spread thin, these fires may be burning for some time.

We remind viewers to email an pictures or video to our newsroom so we can keep the community informed.

Stay tuned to KRCR News Channel 7 for updates.

Lightning Sparks 800-Plus Fires in California

Firefighting help arrives after lightning storm sparks more than 800 California wildfires

By MARCUS WOHLSEN

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO

Firefighters from neighboring states arrived to help Monday after an "unprecedented" lightning storm sparked more than 800 wildfires, from Big Sur to wine country to Humboldt County.

Thousands of firefighters battled the blazes on the ground and from the air and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said he was alarmed by the number of fires that kept erupting.

He said he was told late Sunday evening that the state had 520 fires, and he found it "quite shocking" that by morning the number had risen above 700.

Moments later, a top state fire official standing at Schwarzenegger's side offered a grim update: The figure was actually 842 fires, said Del Walters, assistant regional chief of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. All but a couple were in the northern part of the state.

"This is an unprecedented lightning storm in California, that it lasted as long as it did, 5,000 to 6,000 lightning strikes," Walters said. "We are finding fires all the time."

The assistance, mostly firefighting aircraft, arrived Monday from Nevada and Oregon after being requested over the weekend. Schwarzenegger said he had enlisted the help "because you can never prepare for 500 or 700 or 800 fires all at the same time."

Part of the reason for the swelling number of wildfires was that local and state officials were still counting after the fierce thunderstorm Friday night that touched off the blazes.

"We didn't get real lucky with this lightning storm," Walters said. "It wasn't predicted — which often happens with these storms that come in off the Pacific, there's no history of the weather as it approaches the shore — and so we got hammered."

In Mendocino County alone there were 110 fires, with just 17 contained.

Two of the biggest fires had each charred nearly 6 square miles.

One started in Napa County and quickly moved into Solano County, and threatened about 250 homes about 40 miles southwest of Sacramento, said Kevin Colburn, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. It was 60 percent contained Monday.

The other was in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, about 160 miles north of Sacramento, and threatened about 1,200 homes. The largest of the fires threatened about 1,200 homes, and several youth camps and forced evacuations. The governor declared a state of emergency in Monterey and Trinity Counties on Monday.

Along the coast in the Los Padres National Forest, a 2,000-acre wildfire burning south of Big Sur since Saturday forced the evacuations of 75 homes and businesses, destroyed one house and threatened hundreds of others.

It also led to an emergency airlift Sunday of eight endangered California condors. U.S. Coast Guard helicopters transported the seven juveniles and one adult bird from a wildlife center to the Monterey Airport.

A second fire in the Los Padres burned more than 57,000 acres and has injured nine firefighters.

Two blazes about 25 miles south of San Jose had forced hundreds of residents to flee over the weekend, but most were being allowed to return Monday. One fire was 90 percent contained and the other 50 percent.

In southern Arizona, two new human-caused wildfires were burning Monday but not threatening homes. A 700-acre fire in the Rincon Mountains east of Tucson was fully contained. Lightning sparked that fire.

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800 California Wildfires Caused By Lightning Strikes

MARCUS WOHLSEN | June 23, 2008 11:47 PM EST | 

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Capt. Todd Nelson, of the Sonoma Lake Napa Fire Dept, chops down trees on a hillside Mt. Madonna County Park west of Gilroy, Calif., Monday, June 23, 2008. The Whitehurst Fire has burned over 200 acres in the Santa Cruz Mountains west of Gilroy. (AP Photo/Mario Jose Sanchez)

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Jun 24, 2008 11:51 am US/Pacific

Reno Air Declared "Unhealthy" Due To Wildfires

RENO, NV, (AP) — Health officials declared the air quality "unhealthful" for the Reno-Sparks area today (Tuesday) due to thick smoke in the region from hundreds of wildfires burning in California.

People with respiratory problems, elderly and young children were advised to remain inside with windows closed. The Air Quality Management Division of the Washoe District Health Department also recommended people avoid prolonged outdoor activity while the smoke persists.

The smoke is contributing to elevated particulate pollution levels. It also has reduced visibility to 3 miles to 5 miles in Reno, obscuring any sign of the Sierra Nevada typically visible from downtown.

Most of the smoke in Reno area is attributed to a complex of California fires east of Chico as well as those burning near Lake Davis, Bleber, Blue Canyon and Yosemite National Park. However, the National Weather Service says there are hundreds of fires further west which also are contributing to the smoke across the area.

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Smoke From Fires Creating Unhealthy Air (6/23/2008)

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Lightning sparks 842 blazes throughout Northern California

Staff, wire reports | June 24, 2008 13:31



Josh Smotherman of the Dixon Fire Department, left, and Ken Smith of Valero Refinery do mop-up work Monday after a wildfire scorched thousands of acres of brush-covered land between Fairfield and Napa. (AP photo)

SAN FRANCISCO - More than 840 wildfires sparked by an 'unprecedented' lightning storm are burning across Northern California, alarming Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and requiring the help of firefighters from Nevada and Oregon.

Schwarzenegger said he was told late Sunday evening that the state had 520 fires, and he found it 'quite shocking' that by Monday morning the number had risen above 700.

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The other, in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest about 160 miles north of Sacramento, threatened about 1,200 homes.

The Davis Fire Department sent a strike team on Saturday to Humboldt County, where the captain and three firefighters were assigned to the fire lines, Fire Chief Rose Conroy said Monday.

The department also sent a division chief to the area to work as a strike team leader for Yolo County.

Conroy said there are a total of five firefighting units from Yolo County at the fire, coming from the Davis, West Sacramento, Willow Oak and Clarksburg fire departments.

Cooler temperatures and less wind helped firefighters beat back the 4,000-acre Napa/Solano fire to 60 percent containment Monday evening, said Daniel Berlant, Cal Fire spokeswoman.

No injuries were reported except for a case of firefighter heat exhaustion Sunday. The only property destroyed was one barn Sunday.

The blaze jumped firebreaks in a few spots on Monday morning but firefighter brought that back under control, said Incident Command Team 3 Chief George Morris. Flames

continued to flicker underneath trees on the south side of the blaze Monday, which burned in the hills above Napa County and Green Valley. But the shorter flames were a stark contrast to the ones glowing above tree tops Sunday, Berlant added.

Fire officials reopened Wooden Valley, Gordon Valley, Suisun Valley and Green Valley. Residents on lower Twin Sisters Road, below the burn area, were allowed back into their homes Monday afternoon. A mandatory evacuation order was still in effect for Joyce Lane.

Out-of-state assistance, mostly firefighting aircraft, arrived from Nevada and Oregon in response to weekend requests. Schwarzenegger said he had enlisted the help 'because you can never prepare for 500 or 700 or 800 fires all at the same time.'

Part of the reason for the swelling number of wildfires was that local and state officials were still counting after fierce thunderstorms Friday night touched off the blazes.

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In New Mexico, crews dropped 11,500 chemical balls injected with antifreeze to try to ignite unburned vegetation and halt a blaze that has charred more than 49,000 acres, largely on grazing allotments on federal land.

Lightning sparked the fire Tuesday in the Lincoln National Forest about 20 miles southwest of Hope. It was not threatening any structures.

'The ranchers have already moved a lot of the cattle that were out there,' U.S. Forest Service fire information officer Deanna Younger said. The grazing areas 'will be the main loss,' she said.

Sharon Welsh was relieved to see her Twin Sisters Road home in rural Fairfield still intact and her two cats unscathed but scared Monday afternoon. A Solano County Sheriff's Deputy gave her five minutes Saturday night to leave her home because of the fire danger. Welsh grabbed a toothbrush, books and her dog before departing for her granddaughter's Green Valley home.

For two nights, Welsh slept on her granddaughter's couch and worried about the house she has lived in since 1964. She had seen television news coverage of brush fires that destroyed homes.

'On TV, everything is leveled,' Welsh said. 'It's so nice the house is still standing and the air conditioner running.'

She added that Suisun Fire Protection firefighters and the sheriff's deputies did a good job.

Fire officials closed the Red Cross evacuation center at the Fairfield Civic Center Monday because they saw no further need for it. Six people registered at the shelter to stay Saturday night and left by Sunday morning, said Doug Darling, shelter manager.

Merle and Barbara Hunter watched Monday as firefighters extinguish hot spots on the scorched hillsides around their Green Valley Lane property. On Sunday, firefighters guarded the home from the fire raging down the hillside toward the Hunters' home. Barbara Hunter said flames shot above the trees as the fire burned closer to them. Firefighters kept the blaze away from the Hunters' home.

But Merle Hunter wasn't afraid Sunday because he had cleared vegetation around his home and figured the blaze wouldn't reach them. A bulldozer also created another fire break to further protect them.

Firefighters from as far away as Los Angeles and Orange County were among the 540 strong who assisted in controlling the blaze. Fire officials also brought in 63 fire engines, 13 bulldozers and three helicopters, one of which was a National Guard aircraft.

The temperature dropped to 80 degrees and the winds died down, which kept the fire from moving and gave firefighters a chance to gain the upper hand. Fire officials planned Monday evening to shift resources to the Walker fire in Lake County, which has burned 8,000 acres, Berlant said.

For more information on the Solano fire, call Cal Fire at (707) 967-1456 or visit

<http://www.fire.ca.gov>.

McNationally Newspapers staff writers Audrey Wong and Ben Antoniaz contributed to this story.

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Archive for Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Lightning takes Northern California fires from bad to worse

Combining with record dry conditions and high winds, an unusual lightning storm sets off more than 700 blazes. Firefighters manage to keep property losses to a minimum.

By Eric Bailey
June 24, 2008

SACRAMENTO – Northern California continues to suffer the fallout of what’s turning into a historically bad fire season as a weekend lightning barrage set off more than 700 blazes that by today had burned nearly 40,000 acres.

A record lack of rainfall, the driest vegetation conditions on record and uncharacteristically windy weather have combined to create tinderbox conditions across the northern part of the state.

The spark arrived on Saturday as an unusual weather pattern sent dry lightning flashing to the ground – again and again and again. More than 8,000 lightning strikes hit earth, according to the National Weather Service.

Fire crews, already weary from battling blazes a week ago that charred more than 50 homes near Chico and claimed dozens more in the Santa Cruz Mountains, were sent scurrying all over Northern California in an attempt to quell property loss.

By all accounts, the effort was a success. Though 10 homes were lost to flames north of Watsonville and a single home was destroyed by a big blaze threatening 250 other houses in Solano County, the property loss was kept to a minimum despite fires burning tens of thousands of acres of grassland, brush and forest.

Early preparation has been the key, said Daniel Berlant, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. More crews are on hand this year because of the dry conditions, he said. And with forecasters predicting the possibility of lightning strikes, fire chiefs shifted more forces from Southern California.

“There’s been some good work done the last couple of days,” Berlant said.

But no one was declaring victory.

“We don’t have a lid on it yet,” said Dave Shew, a battalion chief with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. “We’ve got a lot of forces deployed out there, and some of these fires are going to continue growing.”

Even when the latest fires are extinguished, the conditions are ripe for more of the same, warned John Juskie, a National Weather Service science officer.

“In historic terms, we’re at record dry levels,” Juskie said.

“Records were broken all up and down the valley,” he said of the Central Valley.

Springtime saw just .17 inches of rainfall in Sacramento, breaking the record of .55 set in 1934, he said.

The result has been outback and urban vegetation ready to burn. In most areas of the north, the grasses and brush are as dry right now as they normally would be in October, with moisture content of less than 5% compared with about 20% normally for this time of year, fire officials say.

In addition, “no one has seen a springtime like this with the winds,” Juskie said.

Breezes, which can fan a small fire into an inferno, have been whipping for days at about 20 mph. They’ve been caused by a clash between high-pressure storm systems moving through the Pacific Northwest and low pressure hovering over the southwest. Northern California sits right in between, and the result has been persistent winds.

The good news, Juskie said, is that the winds should die down with summer’s onset.

The bad news is that “we’re still hot and dry,” he said. “So we’re not out of the woods. Even without the wind, we’re bone dry.”

As for the lightning, Juskie said it was unusual because of the vast territory hit.

Though lightning can be relied on to strike the Sierra most summers, conditions sent thunderstorms reeling in from the Pacific into areas all over Northern California, from Monterey County up through Mendocino and inland into the far northern mountains of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, where more than 60 blazes burned in the backwoods.

In Mendocino County, 90 fires had burned more than 7,600 acres, with 525 rural homes still potentially in harm’s way. The blaze north of Watsonville that claimed homes was contained after burning 630 acres.

The most threatening of the fires still burning was in Solano County northwest of Fairfield, in a pristine farming area called Green Valley. More than 3,750 acres had burned, but 500 firefighters had the blaze largely encircled today, Berlant said.

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Jun 24, 2008 11:51 am US/Pacific

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Wildfires impact air quality, health

By Enterprise staff | June 25, 2008 11:42



Smoke from nearby wildfires clouds the air in downtown Chico on Tuesday, a scene replicated in cities throughout the Sacramento Valley. AP photo

Yolo County residents are urged to limit outdoor activities - and go inside if they smell smoke - as wildfires burning in Northern and Central California continue to blow smoke throughout the region.

A Yolo County Health Department news release warned that breathing the pollutants in smoke is unhealthy. Short-term exposure can aggravate lung disease, increase the chance of respiratory infection and cause heart attacks in people with heart disease.

Older adults are more likely to be affected by smoke, possibly because they are more likely to have heart or lung diseases than younger people, the health department said.

Children also are more susceptible to smoke for several reasons: their

respiratory systems are still developing; they breathe more air (and air pollution) per pound of body weight than adults; and they're more likely to be active outdoors.

Even healthy people may experience irritation of the nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath.

The Health Department offers these tips for avoiding the health effects of smoke:

- * Pay attention to local air quality reports and stay alert to any news coverage or health warnings related to smoke.
- * Use common sense. If it looks smoky outside, it's probably not a good time to mow the lawn or go for a run. And it's probably not a good time for your children to play outdoors.
- * If you are advised to stay indoors, take steps to keep indoor air as clean as possible. Keep your windows and doors closed - unless it's extremely hot outside.
- * Check the Air Quality Index forecast for your area. The AQI, based on data from local air quality monitors, tells you about the daily air quality in your area and recommends precautions you can take to protect your health. As smoke gets worse, the concentration of particles in the air changes - and so do the steps you should take to protect yourself.

For more information on air quality, go to the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District Web site at <http://www.sparetheair.com>. You can also sign up for e-mail alerts on air quality for your area.

- * Run your air conditioner, if you have one. Keep the fresh air intake closed and the filter clean to prevent bringing additional smoke inside. Note: If you don't have an air

conditioner, staying inside with the windows closed may be dangerous in extremely hot weather. In these cases, seek alternative shelter. If you are in your car, run your air conditioner and close the fresh air intake.

* Help keep particle levels inside lower. When smoke levels are high, try to avoid using anything that burns, such as wood fireplaces, gas logs, gas stoves - and even candles. Don't vacuum. That stirs up particles already inside your home. And don't smoke. That puts even more pollution in your lungs, and in the lungs of people around you.

If you have asthma or other lung disease, make sure you follow your doctor's directions about taking your medicines and following your asthma management plan. Call your doctor if your symptoms worsen.

* If you have heart or lung disease, if you are an older adult, or if you have children, talk with your doctor about whether and when you should leave the area. When smoke is heavy for a prolonged period of time, fine particles can build up indoors even though you may not be able to see them.

For more information, contact the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District at (800) 287-3650 or <http://www.ysaqmd.org>. For health questions, contact your doctor.

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'This is an unprecedented lightning storm in California, that it lasted as long as it did, 5,000 to 6,000 lightning strikes,' Walters said. 'We are finding fires all the time.'

Two of the state's biggest fires had each charred nearly 6 square miles. One in Napa County quickly moved into Solano County, and threatened about 250 homes about 25 miles southwest of Davis, said Kevin Colburn, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. It was 60 percent contained.

The other, in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest about 160 miles north of Sacramento, threatened about 1,200 homes.

The Davis Fire Department sent a strike team on Saturday to Humboldt County, where the captain and three firefighters were assigned to the fire lines, Fire Chief Rose Conroy said Monday.

The department also sent a division chief to the area to work as a strike team leader for Yolo County.

Conroy said there are a total of five firefighting units from Yolo County at the fire, coming from the Davis, West Sacramento, Willow Oak and Clarksburg fire departments.

Cooler temperatures and less wind helped firefighters beat back the 4,000-acre Napa/Solano fire to 60 percent containment Monday evening, said Daniel Berlant, Cal Fire spokeswoman.

No injuries were reported except for a case of firefighter heat exhaustion Sunday. The only property destroyed was one barn Sunday.

The blaze jumped firebreaks in a few spots on Monday morning but firefighter brought that back under control, said Incident Command Team 3 Chief George Morris. Flames

continued to flicker underneath trees on the south side of the blaze Monday, which burned in the hills above Napa County and Green Valley. But the shorter flames were a stark contrast to the ones glowing above tree tops Sunday, Berlant added.

Fire officials reopened Wooden Valley, Gordon Valley, Suisun Valley and Green Valley. Residents on lower Twin Sisters Road, below the burn area, were allowed back into their homes Monday afternoon. A mandatory evacuation order was still in effect for Joyce Lane.

Out-of-state assistance, mostly firefighting aircraft, arrived from Nevada and Oregon in response to weekend requests. Schwarzenegger said he had enlisted the help 'because you can never prepare for 500 or 700 or 800 fires all at the same time.'

Part of the reason for the swelling number of wildfires was that local and state officials were still counting after fierce thunderstorms Friday night touched off the blazes.

'We didn't get real lucky with this lighting storm,' Walters said. 'It wasn't predicted - which often happens with these storms that come in off the Pacific, there's no history of the weather as it approaches the shore - and so we got hammered.'

In Mendocino County alone there were 110 fires, with just 17 contained.

Along the coast in Los Padres National Forest, a 2,000-acre wildfire burning south of Big Sur since Saturday forced the evacuations of 75 homes and businesses, destroyed one house and threatened hundreds of others.

It also led to an emergency airlift Sunday of eight endangered California condors. U.S. Coast Guard helicopters transported the seven juveniles and one adult bird from a wildlife center to the Monterey Airport.

A second fire in Los Padres burned more than 57,000 acres and has injured nine firefighters.

In New Mexico, crews dropped 11,500 chemical balls injected with antifreeze to try to ignite unburned vegetation and halt a blaze that has charred more than 49,000 acres, largely on grazing allotments on federal land.

Lightning sparked the fire Tuesday in the Lincoln National Forest about 20 miles southwest of Hope. It was not threatening any structures.

'The ranchers have already moved a lot of the cattle that were out there,' U.S. Forest Service fire information officer Deanna Younger said. The grazing areas 'will be the main loss,' she said.

Sharon Welsh was relieved to see her Twin Sisters Road home in rural Fairfield still intact and her two cats unscathed but scared Monday afternoon. A Solano County Sheriff's Deputy gave her five minutes Saturday night to leave her home because of the fire danger. Welsh grabbed a toothbrush, books and her dog before departing for her granddaughter's Green Valley home.

For two nights, Welsh slept on her granddaughter's couch and worried about the house she has lived in since 1964. She had seen television news coverage of brush fires that destroyed homes.

'On TV, everything is leveled,' Welsh said. 'It's so nice the house is still standing and the air conditioner running.'

She added that Suisun Fire Protection firefighters and the sheriff's deputies did a good job.

Fire officials closed the Red Cross evacuation center at the Fairfield Civic Center Monday because they saw no further need for it. Six people registered at the shelter to stay Saturday night and left by Sunday morning, said Doug Darling, shelter manager.

Merle and Barbara Hunter watched Monday as firefighters extinguish hot spots on the scorched hillsides around their Green Valley Lane property. On Sunday, firefighters guarded the home from the fire raging down the hillside toward the Hunters' home. Barbara Hunter said flames shot above the trees as the fire burned closer to them. Firefighters kept the blaze away from the Hunters' home.

But Merle Hunter wasn't afraid Sunday because he had cleared vegetation around his home and figured the blaze wouldn't reach them. A bulldozer also created another fire break to further protect them.

Firefighters from as far away as Los Angeles and Orange County were among the 540 strong who assisted in controlling the blaze. Fire officials also brought in 63 fire engines, 13 bulldozers and three helicopters, one of which was a National Guard aircraft.

The temperature dropped to 80 degrees and the winds died down, which kept the fire from moving and gave firefighters a chance to gain the upper hand. Fire officials planned Monday evening to shift resources to the Walker fire in Lake County, which has burned 8,000 acres, Berlant said.

For more information on the Solano fire, call Cal Fire at (707) 967-1456 or visit <http://www.fire.ca.gov>.

- McNaughton Newspapers staff writers Audrey Wong and Ben Antonius contributed to this story.

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SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Hundreds of homes in the scenic community of Big Sur were threatened by a wildfire that already had burned 16 residences and was just 3% contained Wednesday.

About 700 wildfires, many of them sparked by a severe electrical storm over the weekend, burned across much of the state, a point driven home for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger as he traveled to central California to assess the damage there.

GOOGLE MAP: [Locations of significant California wildfires](#)

"I just took off with the plane down from Los Angeles and, literally from Los Angeles all the way up here, there was smoke, so you can see that there's fire everywhere," Schwarzenegger noted at a news conference in Monterey County.

Firefighters scrambled to tame the lightning-sparked wildfire in the Los Padres National Forest that has burned nearly 30 square miles near the coast about a mile south of Big Sur.

"Unfortunately, this fire is in an area that is going to be very difficult to stop, and expectations are there won't be any stopping this fire any time soon," said Mark Savage, a spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service.

The state's largest fire was about 20 miles east in a more remote area of the Los Padres forest. It also vexed firefighters, having scorched more than 92 square miles and destroyed two homes. The blaze, sparked by an escaped campfire on June 8, was about 71% contained.

ELSEWHERE: [Peak lightning season for the Sunshine State](#)

Monterey sheriff's officials said mandatory evacuation orders were in place for both fires, but could not specify how many people were forced from their homes. The Monterey County fires have cost \$33 million to fight so far.

The governor also stopped Wednesday in Butte County, where 27 lightning-sparked fires covering about 8 square miles were threatening 1,000 homes. The blazes, which were only 5% contained, cropped up just as the county was recovering from a fire that charred 74 homes and 36 square miles earlier this month.

Schwarzenegger announced Wednesday that he allotted \$20 million in emergency funds to help Butte County fight fire.

Several blazes also were burning in New Mexico, where a fire in thick trees in the Manzano Mountains prompted officials Wednesday to urge hundreds of people to leave their homes in and near Tajique, about 30 miles southeast of Albuquerque. About four dozen homes in the area burned in a wildfire last month.

The fire more than doubled in size Wednesday to about 1½ square miles. It was less than 2½ miles from Sherwood Forest subdivision, and previously forced the evacuation of a summer church camp.

More dry lightning was expected toward the end of the week in California, although forecasters did not expect as severe an electrical storm as last weekend, when nearly 8,000 lightning strikes sparked about 800 fires.

Fire crews have come in from Nevada and Oregon, and Schwarzenegger said he has called in the National Guard to help.

"The fact is that when you have that many fires — and there are still 700 fires left all over the state of California — you get stretched thin with the resources," Schwarzenegger said.

The storm struck California when the state was experiencing one of its driest years on record. Earlier this month, Schwarzenegger declared a statewide drought and directed agencies to speed up water deliveries to drought-stricken areas.

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California forest fire moving closer to Big Sur

Published 9:43 am PDT Thursday, June 26, 2008

Hundreds of firefighters worked Thursday to protect the scenic community of Big Sur from a lightning-sparked wildfire that inched closer to historic structures after burning 16 homes and threatening another 500 houses.

The blaze in the Los Padres National Forest was only 3 percent contained and had burned nearly 37 square miles near the coast about a mile south of Big Sur, officials said.

A popular tourist spot along the towering cliffs of the central California coast, Big Sur is also a storied destination for generations of American writers.

A library named after "Tropic of Cancer" author Henry Miller, who spent the last years of his life at Big Sur, was directly threatened by the fire, but so far firefighters had beaten back the flames, fire spokesman Curtis Vincent said.

Meanwhile, the National Weather Service predicted more dry lightning toward the end of the week, although forecasters did not expect as severe an electrical storm as occurred last weekend, when nearly 8,000 lightning strikes sparked about 800 fires across Northern California.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger visited Monterey County to assess the damage and said he has called in the National Guard to help fight the fires.

"The fact is that when you have that many fires - and there are still 700 fires left all over the state of California - you get stretched thin with the resources," Schwarzenegger said.

The state's largest fire, located about 20 miles east of the Big Sur fire in a more remote area of the Los Padres forest, also continued to vex firefighters, having scorched more than 92 square miles and destroyed two homes. The blaze, sparked by a campfire on June 8, was about 71 percent contained.

Monterey County sheriff's officials said mandatory evacuation orders were in place for both fires, but could not specify how many people were forced from their homes.

The governor also visited Butte County, where 27 lightning-sparked fires covering about 8 square miles were threatening 1,000 homes. The blazes, which were only 5 percent contained, cropped up just as the county was recovering from a fire that charred 74 homes and 36 square miles earlier this month.

Fire crews from Nevada and Oregon have arrived to help California firefighters battle hundreds of blazes that are darkening skies over the San Francisco Bay area and Central Valley, causing public health officials to issue air-quality warnings.

Areas hit the hardest by the lightning storm also included Mendocino County, where 106 fires have burned more than 33 square miles and threatened about 500 homes, and the Shasta-Trinity Forest, where more than 150 fires have burned nearly 19 square miles and threatened 200 homes.

In central New Mexico, meanwhile, a forest fire in the Manzano Mountains led to the voluntary evacuations of about 350 people, some six weeks after another adjacent fire caused evacuations in the same area.

The fire had charred at least 3,000 acres by Thursday morning, said Vicki Fox, a fire information officer. The voluntary evacuees are from Tajique and the subdivisions of Sherwood Forest and Forest Valley on the east side of the mountains, she said.

Another 150 campers and staff at the Inlow Baptist Youth Camp were evacuated Tuesday.

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Fifth Day of Smoke-Filled Skies

Written for the web by Posted By: [Monica Woods](#), Meteorologist

SACRAMENTO, CA For the first time this week, the air quality is unhealthy for the entire region including Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Placer, El Dorado, Yolo and Solano counties.

News10 Meteorologist Monica Woods says the weather pattern has been fairly persistent the last few days but changes are ahead.

This weekend we'll see slightly warmer weather and a chance of thunderstorms in the Sierra. Unfortunately, that may lead to more lightning strikes which could spark more wildfires.

Woods says the air quality will improve once the fires are contained and winds can carry and disperse the smoke.

Created: 6/26/2008
7:22:45 AM

Updated: 6/26/2008
7:55:29 AM



Smoky Air Impacts Kids' Camps

Written for the web by Posted By: [Alicia Malaby](#), Anchor-Reporter



SACRAMENTO, CA - With air quality hovering in the unhealthy range, coaches and counselors for children's camps are being encouraged to reschedule outdoor activities and move kids indoors.

Sacramento County's Health Officer Dr. Glennah Trochet is advising everyone to avoid strenuous outdoor activities such as soccer practice while smoke is still filling the air.

"You might want to consider not having your child participate and talk to the coach about postponing the practice," said Trochet.

While the health risks of breathing particulate matter that comes from smoke are not entirely known, the fine particles enter the lungs and can cause inflammation particularly in sensitive groups such as those with asthma.

"It's hard to quantify what the long term effects would be of four days or even a few weeks of this kind of exposure, but we know it's not good, and if we can minimize it we should," said Trochet.

The Rio Linda Parks and Recreation Department moved children attending its summer day camp inside to avoid the smoke. Meantime, camp managers checked the air quality online to see if conditions were improving.

"We'll monitor it day by day. Every day we'll get on every hour and check and if the air quality does improve which the weather people tell us it's supposed to by the end of the week, then we'll go outdoors more," said Bob Gilbert, manager for the park district.

Thursday, lingering smoke will again impact air quality, with Sacramento, San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties forecast to be in the "unhealthy" range. Health experts advise avoiding outdoor activities even if you are healthy. People at risk including children, elderly, and those with heart and lung conditions should avoid all outdoor exposure.

Created: 6/25/2008
4:57:40 PM

Updated: 6/25/2008
7:46:27 PM

8:30 a.m.: Summary: Firefighters watch sky

Staff Reports

Article Launched: 06/26/2008 08:57:01 AM PDT

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preliminarily they believe they may have been outbuildings associated with a nearby mine.

While there was little growth in the fires all day Wednesday, the total acreage burned jumped from under 5,000 to about 7,000.

White said the acreage grew when a reconnaissance flight discovered a previously unnoticed fire off Highway 70 in the vicinity of the western border of the Plumas National Forest.

The blaze, which has been named the Camp Fire, has burned an estimated 2,500 acres, according to White.

Wary and weary firefighters are watching the sky today, as they continue to struggle with the roughly two dozen fires that make up the Butte Lightning Fire Complex.

Just before 8 a.m. today Joshpae White, Cal Fire-Butte County engineer/public information officer, said, "We are still very concerned about the weather transition."

White said the weather is expected to change Friday and the change could include more lightning.

"That is going to be a big concern," he told the Enterprise-Record.

He also said, for the first time since the current fire siege began last Saturday, the firefighters have reported two structures burned.

The structures were burned along the western edge of West Fire, which is one of the blazes in the general vicinity of Concow.

White said fire officials have yet to absolutely determine the nature of the two structures, but

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Expect smoke from fires to hang around a while

By LARRY MITCHELL - Staff Writer

Article Launched: 06/26/2008 12:04:22 AM PDT

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Gov Fire Briefing



Lightning Fires June 23-24

CHICO -- If you want fresh air, go to the coast — and stay there.

That's the word from Angus Barkhuff, a forecaster with the National Weather Service.

It seems the smoke from north state fires will hang around for a while, he said in a phone interview Wednesday afternoon.

Looking at a satellite map, he said he could see the worst smoke was around Redding and Red Bluff. Chico was on the edge of the smokiest part of Northern California.

The map showed no smoke along the north coast, around Arcata and down to Fort Bragg, he said. However, south of Fort Bragg, there was smoke extending out over the ocean.

What's needed to clear out the smoke is "a good southerly, southwesterly breeze — a delta breeze," he said.

But that isn't in the forecast. Instead, through the weekend, it's expected to get warmer with "fairly

stagnant air," he said. The smoke has been keeping afternoon temperatures lower than normal.

If there were to be a breeze, it would be a "Catch 22," he said, because while it would push the smoke out of the valley, it would also likely hamper firefighting efforts.

On Wednesday, an air-quality alert was issued stating that conditions continued to be unhealthy in Butte County and that there were "localized areas of hazardous air-quality conditions."

The alert was issued jointly by two county agencies: the Air Quality Management District and the Department of Public Health.

It said that on Wednesday, the air quality index was expected to reach 250, which means the air would be very unhealthy for everyone. On Tuesday, the index reached 233.

When the index is between 151 and 200, the air is unhealthy for everyone. Between 201 and 300, it is very unhealthy, and between 301 and 500, it is hazardous.

The alert recommended that people stay indoors with windows and doors closed, that they run air conditioners on the "recirculate" setting, and that they not run swamp coolers. They should consider bringing pets inside the house to protect them from the smoke, the alert said.

Christina Chavira, a spokesperson for Enloe Medical Center, said one person was admitted to the Chico hospital for a condition directly related to the smoky air.

Also, a handful of people had come to the emergency department or to the Prompt Care drop-in medical centers complaining that the smoke had

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made their existing medical conditions, usually asthma, worse.

Dr. Anton Dotson, a Chico allergist, said his office has been seeing about a dozen patients a day whose breathing ailments have suddenly gotten worse from the smoke.

People with heart disease and congestive heart failure can be adversely affected by the smoke, as well, he said.

Staff writer Larry Mitchell can be reached at 896-7759 or lmitchell@chicoer.com.

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Shasta/Trinity County Fire Updates

Sun, 06/29/2008 - 11:51

Shasta/Trinity County Fires

- **Acres Burned:** 44,000 acres
- **Containment:** 10% contained
- **Structures Threatened:** 230 residence, 25 commercial
- **Structures Destroyed:** 2 residence
- **Injuries:** 4

For a map of evacuation information go to

www.krcrtv.com/fires (<http://www.krcrtv.com/fires>)

For more information on the Shasta/Trinity and other fires go to:

http://www.fire.ca.gov/index_incidents_shasta.php (http://www.fire.ca.gov/index_incidents_shasta.php)

Red Cross Command Center Moving

Sat, 06/28/2008 - 13:24

The Three Rivers Chapter Red Cross Command Center for Butte County Wildfires is moving to operations to the Yolo Hall at Chico State University. Now volunteers, some of whom have been working since June 8, 2008, are located closer to the Butte County Office of Emergency Services, Fire Departments and fire disaster victims.

Whiskeytown Closures

Wed, 06/25/2008 - 16:34

Here is a list of closures in the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area:

Roads: Crystal Creek, Shasta Bally, Peltier Valley

Trails: Boulder Creek and Whiskeytown Falls, Mill Creek, all trails in Brandy Creek area above Kennedy Memorial Drive

Campgrounds: Sheep Camp, Brandy Creek, Crystal Creek

Fires Rage Across North State



Wildfire smoke spreads over California

Published: June 29, 2008 at 11:28 PM

More than 1,000 fires continue to burn in California, blanketing much of the Golden State in smoke, officials said Sunday.

Flames in one Southern California fire have advanced toward more homes in Palo Colorado Canyon, a hamlet of about 250 homes north of Big Sur, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Jennifer Gray, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Forest Service, said firefighters equipped with bulldozers were cutting fire breaks east of the blaze to help protect the area that includes Tassajara Zen Mountain Center, a Buddhist monastery.

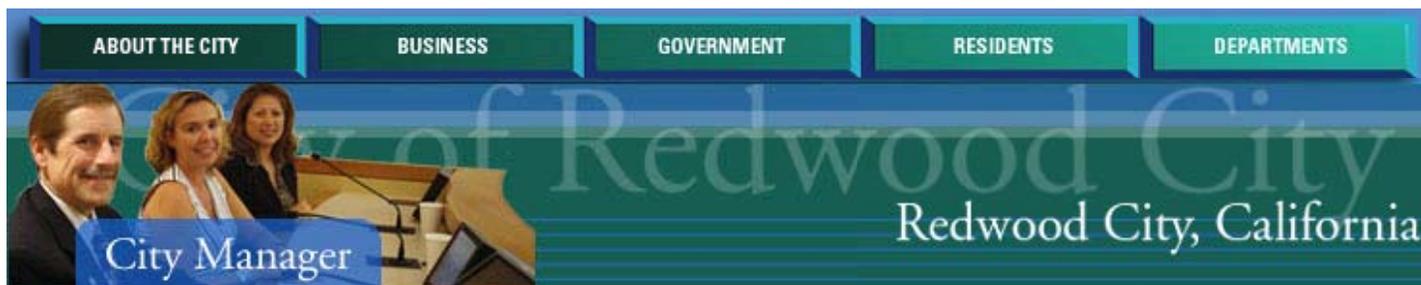
In all, 30 major blazes were continuing to threaten homes and lives, with all but five burning in Northern California, authorities said.

The fires have blackened at least 356,134 acres in the state since June 20. Nearly 48,000 acres have burned since Saturday morning, said Greg Renick, a spokesman for the California Office of Emergency Services.

In the San Francisco-Bay Area, officials said they had no plans to lift a health advisory and children, the elderly and people with heart and lung diseases were advised to limit outdoor activities.

Forecasters were predicting ocean breezes will start clearing out the haze Monday, the San Jose Mercury News reported Sunday.

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Redwood City Reinforces Absolute Ban on Fireworks

Redwood City, CA - June 26, 2008 - The Redwood City Fire Department is reminding the public of its ***absolute ban on fireworks***. Fireworks are the cause of thousands of fires and injuries throughout the United States on the 4th of July, as well as during the days before and after this holiday. These fires and injuries are preventable, when people comply with local laws prohibiting the use of fireworks. As most people know, this year's fire season is off to a particularly bad start throughout the state, with numerous fires, injuries, and property damage, so the ban on fireworks becomes even more important for the safety of our community.

The International Fire Code adopted by the City of Redwood City prohibits any type of fireworks, including the so-called "safe and sane" variety. The only permitted use of fireworks is for professional fireworks shows, such as that which takes place at the Port of Redwood City, sponsored by the Peninsula Celebration Association.

Redwood City Police and Fire staff will be making an extraordinary effort this year to be on the lookout for fireworks throughout the 4th of July holiday period. Any person caught in possession of fireworks will have them confiscated and will be subject to a citation. Fireworks obtained in other jurisdictions may not be brought into or used within Redwood City.

Fireworks are illegal in most parts of San Mateo County, and other jurisdictions share Redwood City's desire to maintain a safe 4th of July holiday. To fully inform the community of Redwood City's prohibition on fireworks, all main roadway entrances into the City will be posted with a sign saying "No Fireworks in Redwood City." The signs feature bright red letters on a white background to make them very visible to passing motorists. The City's goal in this effort is for the community to have a safe, fun 4th of July holiday, and to prevent fire or injury incidents related to fireworks. The fire department website is www.redwoodcity.org/fire.

Visit Redwood City's award-winning website at www.redwoodcity.org for information about the City and its services, the community, recreation programs, education, City government, and local business.

Take a look at the variety of City webcams at www.redwoodcity.org/webcam , and subscribe to Redwood City's electronic newsletter or other City documents at www.redwoodcity.org/egov .

###

Contact:
Louis Vella
Administrative Chief/Fire Marshal
Redwood City Fire Department
650-780-7400



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Experts Predict Four More Months Of Fires

The Wildfire Season In California Could Be Especially Long This Year Due To Dry Conditions

SAN FRANCISCO, June 30, 2008

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(CBS/AP) Hundreds of wildfires burned across central and northern California for a second week Monday, an explosive start to a fire season likely to last well into October as dry, hot weather, rough terrain and lightning storms complicate efforts to bring blazes under control.

The number of fires forced firefighting officials to strategically choose which blazes to fight, while leaving some others to burn for weeks or months.

"It's like eating an elephant - you've got to eat it one bite at a time," said Jason Kirchner, a spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service.

In some rugged, remote areas, it will not be possible to attack all of the blazes, because the risk to firefighters is too great, he said.

"We have to take a step back, figure out where the best place is to make a stand and sometimes wait for the fire to come to us in those situations," he said.

In difficult to reach, hilly terrain on California's Central Coast one of the largest fires remains stubbornly out of control, reports **CBS News Correspondent John Blackstone**. Nearly 40,000 acres have been consumed and this fire is only three percent contained. It burned to the very edges of Big Sur's tourist attractions.

"Right behind me just at the top of this knoll about 300 or 400 feet above the highway we had 30-foot high flames," said Kirk Gaffill.

At Gaffill's restaurant, business has fallen by 80 percent at the start of the busy summer season.

"The timing you know could never be good for something like this, but this is about the worst possible timing," he said.

Long-running wildfires are not unusual in California. It was four months before firefighters controlled a blaze that blackened more than 240,000 acres of Santa Barbara County backcountry last year.

What is extraordinary this year is the number of fires burning at the same time, Kirchner said. The weekend of June 21, some 1,200 fires were burning - a figure Forest Service officials said appeared to be an all-time record in California.

The Forest Service put the figure at about 600 on Monday. It attributed the gains to its tactic of attacking small fires first, and to significant assistance from other states and from Canada.

State officials, however, counted more than 1,000 ongoing blazes. The source of the discrepancy was apparently a different counting method.

Also unusual, Kirchner said, was that there have been no significant injuries to civilians or firefighters even though some 570 square miles have burned in California this season, though there were a few

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minor injuries as harsh terrain hampered firefighters' efforts to battle a blaze in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

"It is extremely steep, very rugged territory, and there are a lot of injuries, twisting ankles, slipping on hills," Kirchner said. Burning debris is "rolling downhill right past your containment line. It's very complicated, difficult, dirty firefighting work."

Even so, firefighters managed to increase their containment of that 30,000-acre fire from 15 to 23 percent.

Over the weekend, the federal government sent eight C-130 firefighting aircraft to help douse California flames. The giant tankers can drop nearly 3,000 gallons of fire retardant, when the pilots can see. But heavy smoke across the state has left much of the job to firefighters on the ground, **Blackstone** reports.

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"Unless it rains, and we get some really good rainfall, you can pretty much expect it to be here right through October," he said.

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News Archives

Butte County Sherriff's Office Seeks Help

Tue, 07/01/2008 - 18:54

On the Lakeside Market of Minor's Ranch Rd authorities discovered an extensive burglary. The police are looking for witnesses who may have seen suspicious activities on the evening of June 30, 2008. If you have any information call the Butte County sheriff's office at (530) 538- 7671.

Air Quality Recommendations

Tue, 07/01/2008 - 18:41

- Pay attention to local air reports.
- Use common sense: if it looks smoky outside, it is best to stay indoors.
- If advised to stay indoors, close windows and doors if possible.
- Run the air conditioner; do not run swamp coolers: Swamp coolers do not filter the air.
- When indoors, avoid smoking and using any other things that produce smoke (candles, vacuum cleaners, etc.)
- Follow doctor's orders for medications if you have heart, lung, or other lung disease.
- Seniors and those with small children should ask their doctor if they should leave the area.
- Be aware of your animals outside.
- Consider wearing respirator masks.

Today on KRCR News Channel 7

Tue, 07/01/2008 - 13:09

Sun, 06/22/2008 - 20:09

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has called on the National Guard to help firefighters as they battle flames all across northern California.

HERE ARE SOME UPDATES ON SOME OF THE FIRES THAT ARE BURNING RIGHT NOW:

Mandatory evacuations are in place right now in the Shingletown area.

The first mandatory evacuation location is near Pine Ridge Estates and Wilson Hill Road. The second mandatory evacuation location is near Bear Creek and Highway 44.

Precautionary evacuations near Donkey Mine Road and Woodridge Drive.

The fire is about 10 percent contained; right now it has burned a total of 400 acres. The Red Cross has set up a shelter at Black Butte Elementary on Ponderosa Way.

Additional fires burning near Lake Concow in Butte County.

Precautionary evacuations have been issued for hundreds of people and about 3 fires are burning in several isolated spots...all in the Concow area.

In the Hayfork area there are over 50 different spot fires, ranging from 1 acre to 200 acres. The total size is over 1,500 acres, focused 5 miles south of Hyampom.

North of Hayfork, two fire management teams arrived today in Junction City looking to help as crews tried to gain control of the Iron Complex.

The fires are just off of Highway 299, north of Weaverville. In this area there are 34 fires, some of which are un-staffed due to steep terrain. Another fire broke out Sunday on Shasta Bally, this one on the south side of the mountain. The smaller fire from Saturday is headed towards Shasta Bally Road, with a truck trying to contain the fire there; with resources spread thin, these fires may be burning for some time.

We remind viewers to email an pictures or video to our newsroom so we can keep the community informed.

Stay tuned to KRCR News Channel 7 for updates.

LIGHTNING SPARKS FIRES IN THE NORTH STATE

Sat, 06/21/2008 - 19:29

As many as 75 wildfires sparked by lightning storms are burning in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest near Redding, in far northern California.

Forest Service Spokesman Michael Odle says none of the fires are immediately threatening homes.

The fires began overnight Friday. They now range from less than an acre in size to more than 750 acres.

Strike teams moved in Saturday on the two largest fires. One is burning near Junction City, the other near LimeDyke Mountain.

More than 20 smokejumpers - firefighters that parachute into remote areas to battle wildfires - have been deployed.

Tehama County cal-fire says they have 75 fires in their area.

We also have reports of one fire threatening homes.

It's in Tehama County on Highway 36 near Payne's Creek and a half mile from Ponderosa Sky Ranch.

It's 6 spot fires started by lightning.

No evacuations have been ordered, but the Tehama County sheriff's office has been alerted.

Cal Fire reports some containment, and some of the threat is diminishing.

May 7, 2009 7:44am
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Experts Predict Four More Months Of Fires

The Wildfire Season In California Could Be Especially Long This Year Due To Dry Conditions

SAN FRANCISCO, June 30, 2008

Comments 7

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(CBS/AP) Hundreds of wildfires burned across central and northern California for a second week Monday, an explosive start to a fire season likely to last well into October as dry, hot weather, rough terrain and lightning storms complicate efforts to bring blazes under control.

The number of fires forced firefighting officials to strategically choose which blazes to fight, while leaving some others to burn for weeks or months.

"It's like eating an elephant - you've got to eat it one bite at a time," said Jason Kirchner, a spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service.

In some rugged, remote areas, it will not be possible to attack all of the blazes, because the risk to firefighters is too great, he said.

"We have to take a step back, figure out where the best place is to make a stand and sometimes wait for the fire to come to us in those situations," he said.

In difficult to reach, hilly terrain on California's Central Coast one of the largest fires remains stubbornly out of control, reports **CBS News Correspondent John Blackstone**. Nearly 40,000 acres have been consumed and this fire is only three percent contained. It burned to the very edges of Big Sur's tourist attractions.

"Right behind me just at the top of this knoll about 300 or 400 feet above the highway we had 30-foot high flames," said Kirk Gaffill.

At Gaffill's restaurant, business has fallen by 80 percent at the start of the busy summer season.

"The timing you know could never be good for something like this, but this is about the worst possible timing," he said.

Long-running wildfires are not unusual in California. It was four months before firefighters controlled a blaze that blackened more than 240,000 acres of Santa Barbara County backcountry last year.

What is extraordinary this year is the number of fires burning at the same time, Kirchner said. The weekend of June 21, some 1,200 fires were burning - a figure Forest Service officials said appeared to be an all-time record in California.

The Forest Service put the figure at about 600 on Monday. It attributed the gains to its tactic of attacking small fires first, and to significant assistance from other states and from Canada.

State officials, however, counted more than 1,000 ongoing blazes. The source of the discrepancy was apparently a different counting method.

Also unusual, Kirchner said, was that there have been no significant injuries to civilians or firefighters even though some 570 square miles have burned in California this season, though there were a few

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minor injuries as harsh terrain hampered firefighters' efforts to battle a blaze in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

"It is extremely steep, very rugged territory, and there are a lot of injuries, twisting ankles, slipping on hills," Kirchner said. Burning debris is "rolling downhill right past your containment line. It's very complicated, difficult, dirty firefighting work."

Even so, firefighters managed to increase their containment of that 30,000-acre fire from 15 to 23 percent.

Over the weekend, the federal government sent eight C-130 firefighting aircraft to help douse California flames. The giant tankers can drop nearly 3,000 gallons of fire retardant, when the pilots can see. But heavy smoke across the state has left much of the job to firefighters on the ground, **Blackstone** reports.

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I'm not sure there will enough fuel for these fires to burn for another 4 months. Once a fire rages through an area, its quite a while before it can happen again.

Posted by [edgardebblins](#) at 3:15 PM : Jul 1, 2008

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Only four months?

Hate to be the bearer of worse news but the reason we are having the rainfall deficits - and consequent fires - we are in California involve long term climate shifts due to global warming (or global cooling, global whining or whatever climate change scenario you favor). The rainy season is ending sooner in the spring, starting later in the fall and what rain that does fall during California's annual summer drought will be less.

The major take away, though, is these changes are PERMANENT - at least over the period of

THE SACRAMENTO BEE [sacbee.com](http://www.sacbee.com)

This story is taken from [Sacbee](#) / Opinion

Editorial: Governor should declare statewide fireworks ban

Charities will suffer, but risk of more fires across California has to be the top concern

Published Friday, Jun. 27, 2008

Given the unusually dry conditions and the obvious danger, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is right to urge Californians to boycott fireworks this year. But appealing to people's good will and common sense will not be enough. The governor should use his powers to declare a state of emergency and ban the sale of fireworks everywhere in California.

No question, the ban will be a hardship for the thousands of charities that depend on annual fireworks sales to pay for their activities. Everything from Little Leagues to high school bands to emergency food pantries to soccer clubs would be hurt from a fireworks ban. The ban should have been declared weeks ago, as the enormity of the fire danger became apparent. That would have saved charities the expense of setting up their operations.

But a ban is still warranted. Anyone who has been breathing the acrid air of the past few weeks knows why.

There are 700 to 1,000 fires burning across California. Exhausted fire crews have been stretched to the limit. Yet on and around July Fourth they know they will be dispatched to fight hundreds of new fires sparked by fireworks – either highly dangerous illegal fireworks, easily purchased across the border in Nevada where they are allowed, or the "safe and sane" variety that are legal in much of California.

Those fireworks are "safe and sane" when used properly. But when used improperly, as when a sparkler is given to a 5-year-old who drops it in dry grass – they, too, can and do cause fires.

A ban at this late date presents a host of problems. The seven-day window when fireworks sales are allowed in this state is set to open in less than 24 hours. Fireworks already have been distributed to thousand of charities across the state. Permits have been purchased, booths rented and set up. In some cases charities already have spent a couple of thousand dollars up front for liability insurance, to rent credit card machines, storage boxes, fire extinguishers, for fire inspections and to decorate their booths. That money can't be reimbursed.

In addition, a ban on firework sales would deprive charities of proceeds from what for many is their single most lucrative fundraising activity of the year. A typical charity can net \$12,000 to \$15,000 from a fireworks booth. That money will not be easily recouped.

No one underestimates the hit a fireworks sales ban imposed this close to the Fourth of July holiday would have on the nonprofit community across the state. But that must be measured against the serious fire emergency that exists.

At this point, California is a tinderbox. The state and local jurisdictions are spending millions to fight wildfires. Firefighters risk injury and death. Millions of citizens are choking on the smoke.

The vast majority of fires were started by things other than fireworks – lightning, carelessly discarded cigarettes or campfires. But fireworks present an increased risk that is unnecessary. Firework-sparked fires on July Fourth are as predictable as flags.

California needs to find a safe and sane alternative to fireworks to fund our charities. For now, though, if you really want to support your local Little League, write it a check – but don't buy its fireworks.

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News Archives

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Tue, 07/01/2008 - 18:41

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- Be aware of your animals outside.
- Consider wearing respirator masks.



News Archives

Fire Updates

Wed, 07/09/2008 - 14:16

Shasta County Evacs

updated at 10:50 am 7/9/08

There are new mandatory evacuations tonight in Shasta County due to the Motion Fire. People who live on Rock Creek Road, Granite Drive and Benson Drive are all being asked to leave. The fire has jumped containment lines and is heading south.

The Moon Complex and Motion Fires continue to threaten homes. Officials will be focusing on the north end of the Motion Fire where the fire continues to burn. The southern end cooled overnight, but may be a concern if the winds pick up. People living on Rainbow Lake Road along with the cross streets in the area are still under mandatory evacuations. Here are more mandatory evacuation areas: Placer Road from Cloverdale Rd to Clear Creek Rd, then going south on Lower Gas Point Rd to the southern intersection with Gas Point Rd, then to Tar Bally, to the intersection of Bully Choop Rd and Platina Rd, then north to the Whiskeytown NPS boundary. Iron Mountain Road north of Rock Creek Road is mandatory evacuations due to the Motion Fire. Rock Creek Road and the town of Old Shasta are under precautionary evacuations.

Butte County Evacs

updated at 5 pm 7/9/08

The Camp Fire is approaching Paradise from the northeast. It has burned around the Concow Reservoir. There are immediate threat evacuations in the Town of Paradise east of Pentz from Malibu to Skyway, and everyone living south of Wagstaff Rd to Billie Rd between Clark Rd and Pentz Rd and south of Billie Rd to the southern town limits, between Sawmill Rd and Pentz Rd. Also, Pentz Road south of Paradise to Miocene Circle and all cross roads. The communities of Berry Creek, Butte Meadows, and Jonesville are all under immediate threat evacuations. The community of Concow, along with Yankee Hill, is still under immediate threat evacuations. This includes Hoffman Road, Hog Ranch Road, and High Winds Road. Precautionary evacuations: Old Skyway and all cross streets, Bader Mine Rd, New Skyway from Coutolenc Rd to Pentz Road, Coutolenc Rd from Skyway to Leucetia Rd and all cross streets, and Pentz Rd south of Miocene Circle. Evacuation centers have been set up at Las Plumas High School, 2380 Las Plumas Avenue in Oroville, the Neighborhood Church in Chico, Chico State University Yolo Hall, located behind the Acker and Shurmer gyms west of Warner Street in Chico, and the Oroville Church of the Nazarene located at 2238 Monte Vista Ave. Chico Farm is no longer taking large animals. Officials recommend seeking private boarding for your large animals. North Valley Animal Rescue is coordinating shelter for small animals. Its telephone number is 895-0000. Feather River Hospital is still closed, including the emergency department. There is no timeframe of when they will be open again.

Trinity County Evacs

updated at 10:50 am 7/9/08

The Iron and Lime Complex fires continue burning in Trinity County. For the Iron Complex, the focus today will be fire line improvement, along with structure protection of private properties. For the Lime Complex, officials will work on

burnout operations on the Miners Fire, re-establishing containment on the Trough Fire, and making sure there are no hot spots around the containment lines. People living in Trinity Village, Hawkin's Bar, and Denny are under precautionary evacuations. Fischer Road from The Colony to the end of the road is under mandatory evacuations. Highway 402 is closed from trinity Village to Denny due to the Ziegler Fire. The two complexes have burned nearly 80,000 acres.

Fire Map Links

Butte County: http://www.fire.ca.gov/downloads/incidents/Butte_Lightning_Map_070708.pd... (http://www.fire.ca.gov/downloads/incidents/Butte_Lightning_Map_070708.pdf)

Shasta County: http://www.fire.ca.gov/downloads/incidents/Shasta_LightningComplex_Map_0... (http://www.fire.ca.gov/downloads/incidents/Shasta_LightningComplex_Map_070708.pdf)

Trinity County: http://www.trinitycounty.org/FireFolder/6-30-08_TrinityCo_Fire%20Map_web... (http://www.trinitycounty.org/FireFolder/6-30-08_TrinityCo_Fire%20Map_web.pdf)

State Map (Interactive): <http://www.oes.ca.gov/WebPage/oeswebsite.nsf/InteractiveMap?readForm> (<http://www.oes.ca.gov/WebPage/oeswebsite.nsf/InteractiveMap?readForm>)

Cooling Centers

Wed, 07/09/2008 - 13:47

Shasta County

NORTHEAST

Burney Fire Protection District 37072 Main Street, Burney, 335-2212

Mt. Senior Center Apartments 20635 Roff Way, Burney, 335-5310

Intermountain Fairgrounds, Ingram Hall 44218 A Street, McArthur, 336-5695

NORTH

John Beaudet Senior Community Center 1525 Median Ave, Shasta Lake, 275-2506 Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 am - 5 pm

REDDING

Mt. Shasta Mall 900 Dana Dr., Redding

Hours: Monday - Saturday, 10 am - 9pm, Sunday, 11 am - 6 pm

Redding Library 110 Parkview Dr., Redding, 245-7250

Hours: Monday - Thursday, 10 am - 8 pm, Friday - Saturday, 10 am - 6 pm, Sunday, 1 pm - 5 pm

SOUTHWEST

Anderson Library 3200 West Center St., Anderson, 365-7685

Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 9 am - 6 pm, Saturday, 10 am - 2 pm

Cottonwood Library 3427 Main Street, Cottonwood, 347-4818

Hours: Mon-Tues, 11 am - 5 pm, Wed, 11 am - 6 pm, Sat, 10 am - 2 pm, Closed: Thurs, Fri, Sunday

Frontier Senior Center 2081 Frontier Trail, Anderson, 365-3254 *available to seniors only, Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5 pm

Shasta District Fairground 1890 Briggs St., Anderson, 378-6789, Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 am - 5pm

Tehama County

Red Bluff - Wetter Hall, 1790 Walnut Street

Corning - Senior Center, 1015 4th Avenue

Both are open from 8 am-8 pm.

Butte County

The Paradise Ridge Family Resource Center, 6249 Skyway in Paradise. 872-3896. It will stay open until 9 p.m. through Friday.

The Paradise Senior Center, 877 Nunnely Road, in Paradise. 877-1733. It plans to stay open until 6 p.m. this week.
The Oroville Family Resource Center, 2185 Baldwin Ave. in Oroville. 533-1576. It will stay open until 9 p.m. through Friday.

The CARD Center, 545 Vallombrosa Ave. in Chico. 895-4711. Hours normally are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. No word was available on whether it plans to stay open later than usual this week.

The Dorothy Johnson Center, 774 E. 16th St. in Chico. 343-9605. Hours normally are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. No word was available on whether it plans to stay open later than usual.

The Gridley Branch Library, 299 Spruce St. in Gridley. 846-3323. It will be open until 9 p.m. through Friday.

Breaking News

Tue, 07/08/2008 - 16:44



Mc Cain / Obama

Tue, 07/08/2008 - 15:36

John McCain and Barack Obama were trying to bridge the same ethnic divide today. Both men sought to forge ties to Hispanic voters through the League of United Latin American citizens. John McCain took the economy center stage for a second day in a row. The Republican nominee says we must focus on small business to fix the problems with the economy. Barack Obama also talked about the economy, but he attacked Mc Cain's policy, saying that a vote for John McCain is a vote for four more years of the same.

2008 Olympics

Tue, 07/08/2008 - 15:35

In Tiananmen Square work continues and the clock keeps ticking: 31 days to go.

The International Olympic committee says China has delivered on most of its promises. The main arena, nicknamed the "Bird's Nest" was declared ready last month; however, it is not what the Chinese have built, it is what the Olympic Athletes will breathe that is still a concern. A test by the BBC found that on six out of seven days, air quality failed to meet standards set by the world health organization.

Green Promise

Tue, 07/08/2008 - 15:34

Day two of the G 8 Summit and President Bush is endorsing a big cut in green house gas emissions. The leaders spent time this morning with shovels, planting Larch Trees. The evergreens are known for taking more CO2 out of the

atmosphere than most other trees. T. Boone Pickens, one of the Nation's fore most tycoons says the US needs an energy plan and he has one. Pickens made billions in the oil business but now calls for more creative thinking. He recommends a two part plan, natural gas in the short term and wind energy in the long term.

Economy Today

Tue, 07/08/2008 - 15:33

The Nation's top banker, Federal Chairman Ben Bernanke said he is ready to toss new life lines to the Financial Industry. This may be a sign of more hard times ahead.

Bernanke announced plans to extend the emergency lending program in hopes of preventing another "Bear Stearns Meltdown". The Chairman stated Federal support rests on how well lenders do their part in shoring up their own institutions.

Top Stories of the Day

Tue, 07/08/2008 - 15:32



Fires on the move

Tue, 07/08/2008 - 15:29

Fires in the Northstate made a move overnight. Officials have some new worries and new evacuations in Shasta and Butte counties.

The Moon Fire in Shasta County is forcing evacuations in the Rainbow Lake area along:

Rainbow Lake Road

Devil's Gap Road

Rector Creek Road

Buell Road

Sunny Hill Road

Zogg Mine Road at South Fork Road, which includes Archer and Bender Roads.

ALL UNDER MANDATORY EVACUATION ORDERS.

The Motion Fire in Shasta County is forcing people living on Iron Mountain Road north of Rock Creek Road to evacuate.

In Butte County the Motion Fire is once again forcing people that were just let back into their homes to leave again. A mandatory evacuation has been issued for people living in the community of Concow between Truex Road from

Highway 70 north to Rim Road and all cross streets including:

Hoffman Road

Hog Ranch Road

High Winds Road.

An evacuation center has been opened at Las Plumas High School in Oroville and an animal shelter has been established at the Chico State Farm.

People living in Trinity County in the towns of Denny, Trinity Village, and Hawkins Bar have been told to prepare for a possible evacuations.

There is a mandatory evacuation for residents on Fisher Road in Hawkins Bar from Colony up to the end of Fisher Road. Denny Road is closed except to residents. Residents should be prepared to show ID.

Cost of Fighting Fires

Mon, 07/07/2008 - 17:14

Fighting the fires has not been cheap. We have a break down for you on just how much money has been spent. Butte County takes the lead at a whopping \$29,900,000. More than 27,000 acres have been consumed. Trinity County comes in at a close second at around \$23 million. But the acreage increase stands at more than 70,000. Next is Shasta County at almost \$22 million, with 54,000 acres burned. Last but not least is Tehama County, which is at more than \$2 million and almost 23,000 acres. For a little perspective, that's \$82 an acre.

Governor Visits Paradise

Mon, 07/07/2008 - 17:10

For the fourth time since the fires broke out, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger was in the Northstate to get an update in person. He was in Butte County on Monday taking a first-hand look at the damage there and answering some hard-hitting questions along the way. In Paradise, amidst a crowd of media and fire officials, the Governor commended firefighters for their efforts and urged exhausted crews be rotated out as soon as possible. He also commented on the impact these fires are having on the State's budget. The budget is already weeks late, but that is not the Governor's chief concern. He maintains that public safety is the State's number one priority. The Governor also urged legislators to pass his Emergency Response Initiative. This would raise homeowner's insurance by a dollar a month, but would provide between \$70-100 million to pay for resources in situations like these.

Motion Fire Updates

Mon, 07/07/2008 - 14:58

Fire crews are working furiously to secure a line around the Motion fire. The fire is near the Shasta dam in the Indian Creek area where it stands at almost 17,000 acres burned and 50% contained. Crews intended to burn out several hundred acres but that did not happen. Officials say they want to make sure a bulldozer-created fire line is cleaned out and secure before crews set the fire. North Iron Mountain Road, Coram Ranch, and Matheson Mine are still under mandatory evacuation.

Today on KRCR News Channel 7

Mon, 07/07/2008 - 14:36



Schwarzenegger Returns to North State

Mon, 07/07/2008 - 11:57

Governor Schwarzenegger will return to the Northstate this morning. He will be in Butte County today touring the damage caused by the Humboldt fire. The Governor signed an executive order, last month, to waive fees and help recovery efforts for the victims of the Ophir and Humboldt fires in Butte County.

Governor Orders More National Guard Troops To The Fire Lines

Thu, 07/03/2008 - 19:34

Today, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger ordered another 200 National Guard soldiers to back up firefighters on the fire lines.

This is in addition to the initial 200 soldiers the governor ordered to be fire-trained. The latest group will report to Wildland Fire Training Center within the McClellan Air Park.

Residents of the Rainbow Lake area, west of Redding, are now back home.

Fire fighters implemented a strategy of lighting fires between two major complexes to keep those fires from reaching homes; and, the strategy is working. The Moon Complex fire north and west of Ono is now connected to the Mary complex on the south side of Shasta Bally. Officials burned between the fires which gives less fire fronts to worry about.

Additional fire updates:

The Butte Lightning complex has grown to 36 fires, 40% contained.

The Rim fire is now 100% contained.

The empire fire is 45% contained.

The camp fire off Highway 70 has grown to 9,600 acres, up from 5,900 acres.

Cal Fire officials say that everything seems to be under control right now; however, they are worried about next week's triple digit heat and how it could affect the firefighters on the lines.

For an overview of fire activity, view the Statewide Fire Map:

http://www.fire.ca.gov/downloads/incidents/StatewideFireMap_070308_AM.pd... (<http://www.fire.ca.gov/downloads/incidents>

[/StatewideFireMap_070308_AM.pdf](#)

Wildfires offer much needed employment

Thu, 07/03/2008 - 13:14

The wildfires may have a silver lining people who work in the construction industry are helping keep the forest green while putting some green in their pockets. The partnership is an ideal marriage; Cal Fire needs equipment and people affected by the housing slump need the work. Cal Fire states that limited resources are forcing them to ask people off the street for help and on the Moon Fire and citizens are stepping up to the plate.

Gary Love is one of the water truck drivers who saved the day, he speaks of the experience humbly, "Yeah, well I didn't find a big one." meaning a spot on fire. "I found a little small spot and put it out." Dozens of water truck drivers, dozer operators and timber cutters are chipping in. A Cal Fire Worker said, "Any resources we have out here we're putting to work. This isn't a traditional firefight for us."

We asked Love if he feels good about helping firefighters when they need him most. He replied, "Well, yeah. It also feels good to be working when construction is so slow." This is true especially when Cal Fire pays water truck drivers \$1,000 to \$1,500 a day. Timber cutters can make about a one thousand dollars a day, while dozer operators can rake in two to three thousand a day. That is big money for people who are looking for work amid the housing slump but Cal Fire says.

Another big help is having locals who know the lay of the land. A Cal Fire employee said, "I can't take any dozer operator and use them up here. I need the people that are used to working in this country." This partnership also allows people like Love to get work and a bit of adventure. Love says, "It gets in your blood. I used to be a firefighter, so the smoke kind of gets you excited." While Cal Fire is just as excited to have the extra help people off the street cannot just start fighting fires, private contractors must get equipment inspected, take an eight hour class and be supervised by a Cal Fire employee; the whole process takes a few days.

Today's Top Stories

Thu, 07/03/2008 - 13:08



Farmers Have Record Breaking Year

Thu, 07/03/2008 - 12:18

Even though it was a dry growing season in Shasta County in 2007 farmers did very well. The 2007 Annual Shasta County Crop and Livestock Report is just out and the numbers are record breaking. The value of agricultural products was up by 11% from the last year for a total of more than \$74,000,000. Field crops saw the largest rise, particularly

hay crops which experienced an increase in yield per acre and an increase in the price that the growers received for their hay.

There are no predictions for next year but the early freeze this growing season is not expected to help next year's crop yield.

Fire Kills One Man

Wed, 07/02/2008 - 17:08

A mobile home fire turns tragic at the River Park Mobile estates in Anderson Wednesday morning. Authorities confirm one man and his dog are dead. 68-year-old Jesse Little and his dog Dodger were trapped inside his mobile home when the fire broke out just after five in the morning. Before firefighters arrived, neighbors tried to put the flames out themselves. When that did not work, they tried to get the neighbor out of the house. But it was too smoky and hot to go inside. The Anderson Fire Department still does not know how the blaze started. Neighbors tell us that the victim did smoke, and that may have started the fire.

Herger Speaks in Redding Area

Wed, 07/02/2008 - 17:06

Describing it as the perfect storm, Congressman Wally Herger talked about fires in the Northstate as he toured the area on Wednesday. He held a joint press conference with Shasta-Trinity National Forest Supervisor Sharon Heywood. During the hour-long event, Herger said the devastation he has seen throughout his district this week is a bad sign for the rest of summer. He called it "just the beginning." After the news conference, the Congressman toured Hayfork to look at the Lime Complex Fires. He predicted by the end of summer that there would be enough acreage burned in Shasta and Trinity counties to qualify for federal money.

2007 Shasta County Crop Report

Wed, 07/02/2008 - 17:05

Even though it was a dry growing season in Shasta County in 2007, farmers did very well. The 2007 annual Shasta County Crop and Livestock report was just put out, and the numbers are record-breaking! The value of agricultural products was up by 11% from the last year, for a total of more than \$74 million. Hay growers were the ones who benefitted the most. The amount of acres grown along with the price of hay all contributed to the record profits. Strawberry growers also did well. There are no predictions for next year, but the early freeze this growing season did not help.

Teacher Arrested for Molestation

Wed, 07/02/2008 - 17:03

Shock and confusion hits Manzanita Elementary School in Redding; a teacher has been arrested, accused of molesting several of his students. Police tell News Channel 7 that this is not the first time Joshua Hoffman has been in trouble with the law. As a 19-year old in Glendora in southern California, he was arrested on suspicion of inappropriately touching an 11-year old. The LA District Attorney's office dropped those charges. No word has come out yet on exactly what Hoffman did. We contacted the Shasta County District Attorney's office to see if they would try to use Hoffman's previous accusations against him during his trial. They were gathering information and trying to get back to us before the end of the day.

Today on KRCR News Channel 7

Wed, 07/02/2008 - 13:56



Fires grow significantly overnight

Tue, 07/01/2008 - 19:08

Last night several fires grew in size due to weather conditions. The Moon Fire grew 2,000 acres to 17,500 acres and is now 15% contained. Four fighters were treated for heat exhaustion and smoke inhalation from the Moon Fire.

The Motion Fire also swelled last night, with flames moving northwest the blaze is now at 16,500 acres, up 500 acres from Monday. Containment is at 25%, which has also increased 5% from Monday's Cal Fire reports.

Several evacuations are still in effect; for detailed information on containment and evacuation information go to www.krcrtv.com/firebriefs (<http://www.krcrtv.com/firebriefs>)

Governor Schwarzenegger Sends In The Troops

Tue, 07/01/2008 - 19:04

At last firefighters will get the help they need to fight the blazes in the north state. Governor Schwarzenegger made a visit to the Incident Command Center located at the Shasta District Fairgrounds to announce that more National Guard troops will be arriving to help fight blazes at the ground level. Schwarzenegger spoke of his concerns for fire fighter health and announced his request to the federal government for 200 more personnel. Cal Fire will work to train the National Guard members and deploy to the fire in 10 groups of 20.

KRCR-TV

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Salem-News.com (Jul-01-2008 10:53)

Fires Flare as Smoke Spreads From California Wildfires to Oregon and Nevada

Tim King Salem-News.com

The National Weather Service reports that wildland fire activity was reported with six new large fires nationally, but California remains the most active state with 27 large fires and 409,046 acres burned.

Images and video
courtesy: Accuweather.com

(SALEM, Ore.) - The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection reports that over 1,450 fires in California have scorched more than 416,200 acres as of early this morning.



AccuWeather.com forecasters say smoky conditions will continue to affect central and northern California as well as western Nevada and southern Oregon.

Red Bluff, California, Reno, Nevada and Medford, Oregon, all reported lowered visibility due to the smoke being spread by a south-southwest steering flow on Monday. The smoke will continue to cause poor air quality and poor breathing conditions, even for healthy adults, through the week.

The dry thunderstorms that have sparked the fires are coming to an end; however, there is no rain forecast to bring help to the firefighters on the firelines.

The National Weather Service reports that wildland fire activity was reported with six new large fires nationally, but California remains the most active state with 27 large fires and 409,046 acres burned. Nationally, there are 46 large fires and complexes burning a total of 525,673 acres.

In California, eight MAFFS C-130 airtankers are supporting the firefighting efforts. The aircraft are based at McClellan Airport in Sacramento, California. Aircraft are provided by the 145th Airlift Wing, Charlotte North Carolina, the 302nd Airlift Wing, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and the 153rd Airlift Wing from Cheyenne, Wyoming.

California Wildfire roundup:

Alps Complex (Shasta-Trinity National Forest): 2,650 acres at two percent contained. This complex of 13 fires is three miles northeast of Burnt Ranch. Moderate fire activity was reported. Residences are threatened. Information: Call (530) 226-2500 ext. 2.

American River Complex (Tahoe National Forest): 4,180 acres at 20 percent contained. This complex of three fires is 11 miles northeast of Foresthill. Power lines, watershed, and residences remain threatened. Information: Call (530) 367-6223.

Basin Complex (Los Padres National Forest): 39,906 acres at three percent contained. This complex of two fires is five miles southeast of Big Sur. Hwy 1 remains closed. A fire evacuation advisory was issued for residents of the Palo Colorado Canyon. Highway 1 is closed. Information: Call (805) 961-5770 or visit

the Website (click on Current Conditions).

BTU Lightning Complex (Butte Unit, Cal Fire): 16,000 acres at 25 percent contained. This complex of 31 fires is in Butte county. Active fire behavior continued. Residences remain threatened. Precautionary evacuations were issued for several communities. Information: Call (530) 538-7826 or visit the Website.

Canyon Complex (Plumas National Forest): 12,921 acres at 38 percent contained. This complex of 17 fires is 16 miles northeast of Paradise. Residences and archeological sites are threatened and road closures are in effect. Information: Call (530) 283-7883.

Clover (Sequoia National Forest): 15,262 acres at 60 percent contained. The fire is 32 miles north of Weldon. Residences are threatened. Information: Call (760) 376-3781 ext. 625.

Corral (Lassen-Modoc Unit, Cal Fire): 15,000 acres at 10 percent contained. This fire is 23 miles west of Termo. Moderate fire activity was reported. Information: Call (530) 257-9553 or visit the Website.

Cub Complex (Lassen National Forest): 3,632 acres at 15 percent contained. This complex of two fires is 16 miles southwest of Chester. Structures and roads remain threatened. Highway 32 is closed so firefighters can perform burnout operations. Information: Call (530) 257-9553.

Hell's Half Complex (Six Rivers National Forest): 2,440 acres at 20 percent contained. This complex of two fires is eight miles southwest of Burnt Ranch. Structures are threatened. Information: Call (707) 441-3623 or visit the Website.

Humboldt Complex (Humboldt-Del Norte Unit, Cal Fire): 1,275 acres at 60 percent contained. This complex of two fires is in Humboldt county. Several residences are threatened. Information: Call (707) 726-1225 or visit the Website.

Indians (Los Padres National Forest): 81,378 acres at 95 percent contained. This fire is 18 miles west of King City. Active fire behavior was reported. Numerous residences and cultural resources are threatened. Voluntary evacuations are in effect for Arroyo Seco. Information: Call 805-961-5770 or visit the Website.

Iron Complex (Shasta-Trinity National Forest): 18,177 acres at 25 percent contained. This complex of 27 fires is one mile north of Junction City. Hawkins Bar and Trinity Village are threatened. Highway 299 is temporarily closed and restricted traffic flow. Information: Call (530) 226-2500 ext. 2.

Lime Complex (Shasta-Trinity National Forest): 35,445 acres at 36 percent contained. This complex of 40 fires is 14 miles west of Hayfork. Numerous residences, ranches, and youth camps are threatened. Evacuations remain in effect. Information: Call (530) 226-2500 ext. 2.

Mad Complex (Six Rivers National Forest): 2,663 acres at 38 percent contained. This complex of four fires is in Humboldt county. Residences are threatened. Information: Call (707) 441-3623 or visit the Website.

MEU Lightning Complex (Mendocino Unit, Cal Fire): 37,600 acres at 38 percent contained. This complex of 63 fires is in Mendocino county. A utility infrastructure and 10 communities are threatened. Information: Call 707-467-6426 or visit the Website.

North Mountain (Stanislaus National Forest): 2,750 acres at 35 percent contained. This fire is seven miles northeast of Groveland. Residences and a lookout tower are threatened. Information: Call (209) 532-3671 ext. 244/245 or visit the Website.

Oliver (Merced-Mariposa Unit, Cal Fire): 2,789 acres at 65 percent contained. This fire is 12 miles east of Mariposa. Structures are threatened. Information: Visit the Website.

Peterson Complex (Lassen National Forest): The complex was contained at 7,824 acres. Information: Call (530) 257-9553.

Piute (Sequoia National Forest): 7,040 acres at six percent contained. This fire is 17 miles northeast of Caliente. The fire continues to spread rapidly. Structures are threatened and evacuated. Information: Call (760) 376-3781 ext. 625.

SHU Lightning Complex (Shasta-Trinity Unit, Cal Fire): 51,000 acres at 10 percent contained. This complex of seven fires is in Shasta and Trinity counties. Platina, Keswick, Corman Ranch, and a power generation system are threatened. Information: Call (530) 225-2510 or visit the Website.

Silver Complex (Sierra National Forest): 1,111 acres at 92 percent contained. This fire is 12 miles southeast of Mariposa. Moderate fire activity was reported.

Soda Complex (Mendocino National Forest): 5,100 acres at 64 percent contained. This complex of three fires is 15 miles northwest of Upper Lake. Residences are threatened. Information: Call (530) 934-3316.

Siskiyou Complex (Klamath National Forest): 7,988 acres at 23 percent contained. This complex of three fires is 18 miles southwest of Happy Camp. Campgrounds and residences are threatened. Information: Call (530) 493-1518.

TGU Lightning Complex (Tehama-Glenn Unit, Cal Fire): 22,907 acres at 65 percent contained. This complex of three fires is in Tehama county. Information: Call (530) 528-5193 or visit the Website.

Ukonom Complex (Six Rivers National Forest): 5,884 acres at two percent contained. This complex of three fires is three miles southwest of Somes Bar. Structures are threatened. Information: Call (707) 441-3623 or visit the Website.

Whiskeytown Complex (Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, National Park Service): 6,559 acres at 30 percent contained. This complex of three fires is 12 miles west of Redding. Power lines, communication towers, and recreation areas are threatened. Information: Call 530-242-3438 or visit the Website.

Yolla Bolly Complex (Mendocino National Forest): 3,900 acres at five percent contained. This complex of 17 fires is 24 miles southwest of Chico. The Yolla Bolly Middle Eel Wilderness area is closed. Information: Visit the Website.

Yuba River Complex (Tahoe National Forest): 3,579 acres at 61 percent contained. This complex of three fires is 13 miles northeast of Nevada City. Several communities, hydroelectric facilities, and recreation sites are threatened. Information: Call (530) 478-6101.

Here is the Accuweather.com NW Weather Report:

[VideoWeather Forecast](#) | [Weather Maps](#) | [Weather Radar](#)

Special thanks to: [Accuweather.com](#)

[Fires Flare as Smoke Spreads From California Wildfires to Oregon and Nevada](#)

Salem-News.com

Smoke from Northern California fires has little health effect on Oregonians

Posted by [mrollins](#) July 02, 2008 06:35AM

The haze from California fires that settled in Oregon over the weekend showed signs of lifting on Tuesday, but health and environmental officials said it would linger several days.

Hospitals in Southern Oregon, where the smoke was heaviest, said they had seen only small increases in the number of people coming to emergency rooms with troubles related to the smoke.

In Eugene, attention was focused on the impact of the smoke on the Olympic trials under way at the University of Oregon, but emergency room Dr. Scott Williams at Sacred Heart Medical Center said it's been hard to tell the difference between residents suffering from smoke and those suffering from the annual seasonal outbreak of pollen from trees and the region's grass-seed industry.

Particulate measurements at Eugene had been classified as unhealthy as the California smoke began to invade the state, but on Tuesday they dropped to a rating of moderate.

Closer to the Oregon border, and nearer the hundreds of wildfires lightning touched off in California, the emergency room at Rogue Valley Medical Center in Medford hadn't seen large numbers of people suffering from the smoke.

"Generally, people who have respiratory problems are staying inside," said spokesman Grant Walker.

Oregon and its mountainous southern region often see smoke spreading from wildfires, as in 2002 when the Biscuit Fire burned on 500,000 acres and covered a wide region with smoke.

At mid-afternoon Tuesday, the state Department of Environmental Quality said particulate levels were high enough under federal standards to warrant labeling conditions as "unhealthy for sensitive groups" in Bend, Klamath Falls, Medford and Shady Cove. That included people with asthma and heart and lung diseases.

In Oregon itself, federal fire managers reported only three fires, and only one of those of any size, a 30,000-acre blaze in the far southeastern part of the state. California firefighters, however, continued to struggle with hundreds of fires.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality said the smoke was spreading to the Salem and Portland areas, as well as southwest Washington. Later in the week, the department said, particulate levels could reach a level that's unhealthy for sensitive people.

But the haze didn't seem to interrupt the likes of Portland stockbroker Sam McKinley, 32, one of dozens of joggers in Tom McCall Waterfront Park on Tuesday afternoon. Interrupting a 3.5-mile

run, he said he runs most days to deal with the effects of the sell-off in the markets.

"I could stay in the office and be depressed," he said, "or I can go out for a run in the haze."

-- *The Associated Press*

Categories: [Breaking News](#), [Environment](#), [Wildfires](#)

Comments

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July 2, 2008

California Fire Creeps Closer to Homes in Big Sur

By [JESSE MCKINLEY](#)

BIG SUR, Calif. — Residents of the scenic Big Sur Valley and the popular town that made it famous watched anxiously on Thursday as a fire crept closer to homes and business, even as the authorities ordered more coastal residents from their homes.

The fire, which started nearly two weeks ago after a lightning storm, has proved vexing to firefighters, some 1,700 of whom are in the valley. Big Sur residents were put under a mandatory evacuation order on Wednesday night. Still, some residents and business owners in Big Sur remained on hand on Thursday despite clouds of smoke and ash filling the air and flame erupting from hillsides just east of town.

"They've evacuated everybody, but I'm going to stay until I can't breathe anymore," said Jayson Fann, 35, a longtime resident and father of two, in a telephone interview. Mr. Fann said he had watched the fire "creeping down the mountain" from his vantage point west of Highway 1, the scenic coastal byway that runs through Big Sur Valley, and had been told by firefighters that they could not save his home if the fire were to jump the road.

"They said it was just too close to the trees," he said. "They said they can't defend it. So I'm not going to defend it either."

Statewide, more than 500,000 acres have burned since June 20, with more than 1,700 fires reported. Hundreds of fires have been contained, but more stubborn blazes like that at Big Sur have proven difficult to extinguish and may take several more weeks to contain.

Further south in Santa Barbara County, officials declared a state of emergency there as a wildfire swept out of the mountains and threatened several hundred homes.

[California](#) officials ordered the evacuation of about 1,500 residents of Big Sur on Wednesday as flames flared on the nearby mountaintops and moved steadily toward this famed resort area.

Firefighters have been attacking the fire near Big Sur for 12 days and had been helped in recent days by fog, moist conditions and lighter winds. Seventeen homes have been lost here — more than half the total destroyed statewide from the first major wildfires of the season — and about 1,200 remained threatened, but many residents had been allowed to remain as the fire stayed to the east and south.

But overnight Tuesday the fire unexpectedly intensified, prompting mandatory evacuations of residents on both sides of Highway 1. About 30 miles of the highway have been closed to traffic.

“It’s tough to move out of your home; we understand that,” said Gov. [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#), who visited the town with federal emergency officials on Wednesday, “but do it.”

Yellow smoke and ash mixed in the air as a procession of possession-laden cars, trucks and vans streamed north out of town. Horses, goats, cats and dogs were also being trucked out by animal welfare workers, as helicopters ferried back and forth to the ocean, drawing out water to dump on smoldering hillsides east of town.

One of those evacuating was Erica Sanborn, 28, who was living with her husband and their dog in a hotel in Big Sur, having already been forced out of their home, farther south on the coast.

“I’m kind of numb,” said Ms. Sanborn, an emergency room nurse who awoke to an evacuation order after a night shift. “I would never think that Big Sur could burn.”

Statewide, more than 19,000 firefighters and other workers have been fighting fires since June 20, when a line of storms and lightning sparked hundreds of blazes across the northern and central parts of the state. The blaze near Big Sur — known as the Basin Complex — is just one of about 1,100 confirmed fires on federal and state lands in California, according to CalFire, the state fire agency, though exact figures were hard to confirm. Hundreds of others have been contained or put out.

But in Santa Barbara County, a wildfire that started on Tuesday night burned out of control as it crept closer to about a dozen homes in the Los Padres National Forest above Goleta. A fire official said the blaze, known as the Gap fire, had burned about 350 acres and for a time knocked out power to about 150,000 Southern California Edison customers.

Costs were also rising. State officials have spent more than \$50 million on the current fires, according to CalFire. On Tuesday, Mr. Schwarzenegger had ordered around 200 National Guard troops to provide ground support to firefighters.

The major culprit in the blazes is a persistent drought that has made for volatile fire conditions. Steep terrain was also complicating firefighting efforts. Tina Rose, a spokeswoman for the fire operation, said that about 20 miles of Highway 1 along the coast were closed, shutting down access to famous — and currently shuttered — resorts like the Ventana Inn and the Post Ranch.

One local celebrity, the [Beach Boys](#)’ guitarist Al Jardine, said he had loaded up a trailer with musical equipment on Monday night, and was hoping to hold out before the evacuation order came.

“It’s depressing,” Mr. Jardine said. “People are walking around like zombies.”

Mitchell L. Blumenthal contributed reporting from New York.

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Smoke from California wildfires drifts into Oregon

Posted by [ncrombie](#) July 04, 2008 05:50AM

California wildfire smoke has wafted into Southern Oregon and parts of the southern Willamette Valley, [reports this morning's La Grande Observer](#).

Oregon and its mountainous southern region often see smoke spreading from wildfires, as in 2002 when the Biscuit Fire burned on 500,000 acres and covered a wide region with smoke.

At mid-afternoon Tuesday, DEQ said particulate levels were high enough under federal standards to warrant labeling conditions as "unhealthy for sensitive groups" in Bend, Klamath Falls, Medford and Shady Cove. That included people with asthma and heart and lung diseases.

In Oregon itself, federal fire managers reported only three fires, and only one of those of any size, a 30,000-acre blaze in the far southeastern part of the state. California firefighters, however, continued to struggle with hundreds of fires.

DEQ said the smoke was spreading to the Salem and Portland areas, as well as southwest Washington. Later in the week, the department said, particulate levels could reach a level that's unhealthy for sensitive people.

More [Northwest front pages](#) are here, and [stories from today's Oregonian are here](#). [Go here](#) for more stories from Northwest newspapers.

Categories: [Eastern Oregon](#)

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Idaho News

Calif. wildfire smoke impacts Idaho air quality

02:05 PM MDT on Friday, July 4, 2008

Associated Press

BOISE -- Smoke from fast-moving wildfires in California is expected to impact air quality in southern Idaho, according to the state Department of Environmental Quality.

The agency determined air quality in Ada and Canyon counties was in the moderate condition earlier this week.

Also Online

[Air Quality alert today](#)

Overnight winds late Thursday were expected to bring smoke from California into the region on Friday.

Wildfires in California, overall, have scorched more than 790 square miles and destroyed at least 65 structures since June 20, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The New York Times

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July 4, 2008

Blazes in California Take a Toll on Fireworks

By [JESSE MCKINLEY](#)

MARINA, Calif. — Lis and Robert Billingsley — retirees, volunteers and proud American Legion members — said they had exactly one word to describe sales this holiday period at the fireworks stand they run here for the Legion.

“Lousy,” said Ms. Billingsley, speaking almost in unison with her husband. “Thanks to the TV and the fires they are putting on the TV, it’s the worst year ever.”

Hundreds of blazes have ravaged sections of parched [California](#) over the last two weeks, burning more than 500,000 acres, destroying homes and other property, and costing the already budget-challenged state more than \$50 million in firefighting expenses.

Fearing that more fires might be sparked by errant pyrotechnics, a number of towns and cities have imposed a temporary ban on the use and sale of fireworks, even of ordinarily legal so-called “safe and sane” fireworks, roughly defined as those that do not fly, move or explode. (Except for use by licensed technicians, bottle rockets, firecrackers, Roman candles, M-80s and the like are already illegal under state law.)

Those bans have meant headaches for people like the Billingsleys, who are out of harm’s way but who depend on fireworks and people’s enthusiasm about them to raise money.

Official Fourth of July fireworks displays have also been shelved in several cities, including Folsom in the Central Valley, where more wildfires erupted this week.

Police forces, including the one in this beachfront community about 100 miles south of San Francisco, have declared “zero tolerance” policies toward amateur pyrotechnicians. Those caught with illegal fireworks are subject to arrest and hefty fines.

Border inspections have been beefed up to hunt for such fireworks, and in San Francisco, police officials are promising to use so-called “shot spotters,” devices usually employed to determine where a gun is fired, as a way to detect pyrotechnics lawbreakers. Other police forces are using fireworks informants and helicopter patrols to hunt illegal displays.

Gov. [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#), who as a former action-movie star knows a thing or two about explosions, has weighed in, telling Californians to boycott all fireworks, though he stopped short of calling for a statewide ban. “I know that the people that are selling all this stuff are

going to go crazy now when I say this,” Mr. Schwarzenegger said last week, “but don’t buy any of the fireworks.”

All of which has put an undeniable damper on sales and the mood at some fireworks stands, most of them nonprofit operations that raise money for causes including youth programs.

“He’s the governor, he can say whatever he wants to say, but I think it was a little premature,” said Keith Simi, who runs a roadside stand here in Marina, one community that has not imposed a ban and is typically a fireworks retailing hub around the Fourth. “I mean, most of these fires started way, way before the fireworks started selling.”

Sure enough, a vast majority of the recent fires were sparked by a line of storms and lightning that rolled off the Pacific Ocean on the night of June 20.

That includes a large fire that is still growing along the Central Coast south of here, prompting the evacuation on Wednesday of the scenic Big Sur Valley and the closing of 30 miles of the coastal highway. In Mendocino County, meanwhile, up the coast from San Francisco, a 63-year-old volunteer firefighter, Robert Roland, died on Thursday, having collapsed battling blazes that have covered 39,000 acres there. He was the first firefighter killed in the recent outbreak of blazes.

In late June, one blaze swept through a section of nearby Watsonville, a city of about 47,000, where several homes were lost. Soon afterward, the City Council voted unanimously to ban the sale and use of fireworks for the rest of the year.

Kimberly Petersen, Watsonville’s mayor, said she had been swayed by a briefing from her fire chief about the state’s persistent drought, including the driest spring in 88 years.

The mayor said that the City Council had formed a committee to help find alternative sources of financing for the groups that rely on fireworks sales, and that a lot of people were contacting the city with ideas. The governor’s office suggested that Californians give directly to such groups.

Nonprofit organizations generally make about 41 cents net profit on every dollar of fireworks sold, according to American Promotional Events, the state’s largest fireworks wholesaler, which supplies about 2,700 of the 3,100 or so nonprofit stands.

Dennis Revell, a spokesman for the company, said it had consistently supported efforts to crack down on illegal fireworks.

“Statistically, and anecdotally, state-approved fireworks have not been a part of the problem on Fourth of July,” Mr. Revell said. “Illegal fireworks are. And illegal fireworks are more prevalent in communities where state-approved fireworks are not available.”

But even in Marina, where Mr. Simi is one of several sanctioned fireworks sellers, fire officials say it is hard to stop people from using illegal devices. Brad Hinckley, division fire chief, said

his department regularly discovered pipes dug into the ground to serve as launching tubes for rockets. "All that has to do is land in a patch of dry grass," he said, "and you got a problem."

Mr. Simi, whose stand benefits a center for discharged veterans, said sales were off, with no need to restock. But Mr. Revell said most Fourth of July buyers waited until the last minute and so it might be too early to know the broad impact of the bans.

For the Billingsleys, however, last heard from with their glum assessment of business on Wednesday morning, sales remained easily summed up Thursday afternoon.

"Still lousy," Mr. Billingsley said. "But maybe they'll be better on the Fourth."

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The Web Site of The Sacramento Bee

This story is taken from [Sacbee](#) / [News](#).

Smoke fills Sacramento Valley yet again

By Todd Milbourn - tmilbourn@sacbee.com
Published 12:00 am PDT Monday, July 7, 2008

The cloud of smoke hanging over the Sacramento region grew even thicker Sunday. And the air is likely to get worse before it gets better.

Forecasters predict the hottest days of the year will arrive this week, with temperatures climbing to 105, 106, maybe even 107.

Combine that with calm winds and the 330 fires still raging across California, and forecasters say we won't be breathing a sigh of relief anytime soon – just more and more smoke.

"Looks like we're in the smoke through Friday," said Karl Swanberg, a forecaster for the National Weather Service's Sacramento office. "We haven't seen the worst of it."

And it was pretty bad Sunday, with a gray-brown haze shrouding landmarks from the Capitol dome to the Auburn courthouse in a dreamlike aura. Sports leagues canceled games. Air quality officials urged people – particularly those with respiratory troubles – to stay indoors.

The air was especially bad in the Sierra foothills, where steep, winding canyons trap the air during the day. Normally, the air blows out at night, but warmer nighttime temperatures are causing the smoke to linger, Swanberg said.

Despite the choking air, families remained determined to enjoy the last of the holiday weekend.

Young and old alike splashed around with beach balls and cast fishing lines into the American River at a popular spot under the Foresthill Bridge near Auburn.

Thirty miles away, firefighters continued to battle the cause of the smoke – the American River complex of fires that so far have burned 8,438 acres and destroyed one building. By Sunday, U.S. Forest Service officials said the fires were 20 percent contained.

Melissa Spackman said she and her husband, Jason, left home in Rocklin early Sunday morning under a clear sky. But the sky grew darker the farther they traveled along I-80 toward the river spot.

"We were driving up here and I was like, 'Honey, are we driving into the fire?' " said Spackman, taking a break from helping 4-year-old Paris cast a line into the slow-moving river.

Spackman said the family would likely cut their outing short because her oldest son, 11-year-old Austin, has allergies and the mother didn't want to risk them getting any worse.

Down the river, Janetta Shunk said smoke from wildfires is a fact of life in Northern California and everyone should just accept it.

Shunk came up from Sacramento with her husband and two kids, ages 7 and 5. She said the smoke was irritating, but it didn't dampen a day of swimming and skipping rocks.

"Such is life," she said.

The smoke hasn't deterred too many outdoor enthusiasts – at least not yet, said Guy Cables, co-owner of Sierra Outdoor Center in Auburn. Kayak rentals have been brisk, he said, although a pair of mountain bikers did cut their ride short Sunday because of the air.

"I think it's overblown," Cables said of the air problems. "I go for a run every morning, and so long as you're in good shape, it doesn't really affect you."

Some people have to be outside whether they choose to be or not.

Zach Frese had the unfortunate job Sunday of standing along Lincoln Way in Auburn and waving a sign advertising an auction of foreclosed homes. From his corner, he said he could see the occasional bomber flying overhead to fight the blazes.

Frese, 21, smokes cigarettes to help pass the time. But he said the acrid residue from forest fires is something special. It makes your eyes burn, he said.

Frese said he's been sitting out in the smoke for two days now watching it grow darker and heavier.

"I wised up today and brought a jug of water and stool to sit on," Frese said as a pair of trucks rounded the corner, adding puffs of exhaust to the unhealthy mix. "But it's definitely getting worse."



The Web Site of The Sacramento Bee

This story is taken from [Sacbee](#) / [News](#).

Falling air quality prompts health advisory

By Niesha Lofing - nlofing@sacbee.com
Published 7:22 am PDT Monday, July 7, 2008

Air quality in the Sacramento region has plummeted again because of smoke from wildfires burning in Northern California.

A Spare the Air advisory was issued today, the first such designation declared this year, according to the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District's Web site.

Smoke coupled with increasing ozone levels are to blame for the "very unhealthy" air quality, the Web site states.

The worst levels of particulate matter - small particles that carry the highest potential for causing health problems - have been documented near Colfax and Auburn.

The air quality index today is expected to reach 210, exceeding the highest of the index's four levels. An air quality index of 150 to 200 is considered unhealthy for everybody, according to district information.

Residents are advised to remove themselves from areas where they see or smell smoke, or to go indoors.

Light winds forecast for the region also are contributing to the poor air quality.

A light north wind about 5 to 10 mph will be blowing in much of the region today, said Holly Osborne, a National Weather Service meteorologist.

The breeze will push more smoke into the valley, especially in the eastern areas, Osborne said. The Weather service anticipates smoky skies for the entire week.

"There's a ridge of high pressure building over us that kind of puts a lid on it," Osborne said. "(The smoke) flows down into the valley and sort of gets trapped."

But there might be a slight silver lining: The smoke could help lower temperatures.

The latest Weather Service forecast predicts high temperatures in the Sacramento area to reach 104 degrees today and 107 degrees Tuesday and Wednesday.

Forecasters can't be sure whether the smoke will buffer high temperatures, as it did two weeks ago, but it might help, Osborne said.

"That's the tricky part of the forecast," Osborne said. "During the day, it blocks some of the sun, so our highs can be cooler. But overnight, it sort of serves as a blanket and gets trapped in, so our nightly temperatures are higher than we normally see."

Given the area's unhealthy air, people are advised to limit outdoor activities and prolonged exposure to the smoke, especially people with respiratory conditions, older adults and young children, a special weather statement on the Weather Service Web site states.

Studies have found that short-term exposure to particulate matter can aggravate lung disease, causing asthma attacks and acute bronchitis, increase a person's susceptibility to respiratory infections and cause heart attacks and arrhythmia in people with heart disease, the air district's Web site states.

Healthy people also may experience irritated eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath.

Long-term effects include decreased lung function, aggravated asthma, irregular heartbeat and chronic respiratory disease in children, the Web site states.

Go to: [Sacbee](#) / [Back to story](#)

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News Archives

Immediate Threat Evacuation Advisory

Sun, 07/13/2008 - 07:32

Plumas National Forest, the Butte County Sheriff's Office and cooperating agencies on the FRIEND-DARNELL fire, part of the Canyon Complex have made the following change to the evacuation status:

Immediate Threat Evacuation Advisory for residents of Berry Creek area, Milsap Bar, and Brush Creek area has been reduced to a **Precautionary Threat Evacuation Advisory**. Residents can return home.

Only residents with proper identification will be allowed in the Berry Creek Precautionary area. Residents should have their ID ready when approaching any access point. Check points will be at the intersection of Bald Rock Road and Oro. Quincy Hwy., at the upper end, and Bald Rock Road at Greystone Lane.

To help residents prepare for the many hazards they may encounter when returning to their community and home a safety list will be provided to residents at the access point.

In addition, utility crews and firefighters are still working in the community. Residents should drive slowly and be alert for emergency equipment, firefighting crews, and other vehicles. When returning home follow all directions given by law enforcement or fire officials.

Butte Lightning Complex Update

Sat, 07/12/2008 - 17:53

Complex have determined the following adjustments to the evacuation status:

⌘ Immediate Threat Evacuation Advisory for residents of Yankee Hill south to Lake Oroville can be rescinded. Residents in these areas will no longer be under an evacuation advisory. Residents may return to their homes.

⌘ Immediate Threat Evacuation Advisory for the homes accessed from Truex Road west of Hwy 70 has been rescinded. No evacuation advisories are in affect for these homes. Residents may return home.

⌘ Immediate Threat Evacuation Advisory for homes east of Hwy. 70 accessed from Big Bend Road will be downgraded to a Precautionary Evacuation Advisory.

Residents can return home but must be prepared to evacuate if the advisory is upgraded.

⌘ Immediate Threat Evacuations remain in effect for Jarbo Gap, Concow, Camelot and for all areas west of Hwy. 70 between Lunt Road and Andy Mountain/Rim Road and west to the Feather River.

For road closure information, go to www.krcrtv.com/pressrelease (<http://www.krcrtv.com/pressrelease>) - ButteLightningComplex

Butte County Updated Evacuation Information

Sat, 07/12/2008 - 14:05

Butte County Evacuation Information (530) 538-2739.

IMMEDIATE EVACUATION ADVISORIES:

In the Concow area: Truex North to Camelot.

In the Berry Creek area; Milsap Bar; Brush Creek areas: Baldrock at Rockefeller to Oro Quincy Highway.

In Jarbo Gap West of Highway 70 to West Branch of Feather River.

In Jarbo Gap East of Highway 70: Deadwood to West Branch Bridge. Highway 70 at Lake Oroville and all east tributaries.

Air Quality

Sat, 07/12/2008 - 11:40

Chico: The 24-hour average yesterday was 121 ug/m3 which is equal to an AQI of 183 (Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Chico is forecast to reach 105. At this level the air quality is rated UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE.

Gridley: The 24-hour average in Gridley yesterday was 39 ug/m3 which is equal to an AQI of 97 (Moderate). Today the AQI in Gridley is forecast to reach 80. At this level the air quality is rated MODERATE.

Oroville: There is not a PM2.5 monitor available in Oroville to monitor air quality. Officials recommend people use the Visibility Chart to determine smoke levels and air quality for that area. Based on the visibility yesterday the air quality in Oroville was Unhealthy. The air quality in the Oroville area today is forecast as MODERATE.

Paradise: The 24-hour average in Paradise yesterday was 204 ug/m3 which is equal to an AQI of 254 Very Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Paradise is forecast to reach 210. At this level the air quality is rated VERYUNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE.

Magalia: The 24-hour average in Magalia yesterday was 145 ug/m3 which is equal to an AQI of 197 Very Unhealthy). Today the AQI in Magalia is forecast to reach 201. At this level the air quality is rated VERY UNHEALTHY FOR ALL PEOPLE.

For more detailed information about Butte County Air Quality go to www.krcrtv.com/pressrelease (<http://www.krcrtv.com/pressrelease>) and click **071208AirQuality**

SHASTA, TEHAMA AND TRINITY AIR QUALITY WILL BE UPDATED AS INFORMATION ARRIVES. THE FIRST ALERT WEATHER TEAM WILL HIGHLIGHT AIR QUALITY FOR ALL COUNTIES AFFECTED BY SMOKE DURING OUR 6PM NEWSCAST.

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area Remains Closed

Sat, 07/12/2008 - 11:11

The Motion Fire has entered the National Recreation Area east of Whiskey Creek Road and is moving in a southwest direction toward the lake. The Moon Fire continues to move north and east reaching the NRA boundary along the ridgeline. Highway 299 is open with restrictions.

The current concern is the protection of the Shasta Bally Communications site; WAPA high voltage transmission lines, PG&E powerlines, National Recreation Area buildings, roads and facilities are threatened. Structure protection continues for residences and park buildings; KRCR's transmitter is also located on Shasta Bally.

Location: 10 miles west of Redding on Shasta Bally Mountain, Whiskeytown NRA

- **Start Date:** June 21, 2008
- **Cause:** Lightning
- **Size:** 6,135 acres

- **Containment:** 50 %
- **Estimated Cost:** \$8 million
- **Total Staff:** 429
- **Management Team:** Type 2 Northern Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team
- **Committed Resources:** 12 Engines, 11 Crews, Overhead 106, 5 Watertender, 3 Helicopters

Saturday Fire Updates

Sat, 07/12/2008 - 10:24

In Shasta County: The Moon Fire has improved. It grew 1,000 acres since yesterday. The area of concern is still the North end of Zogg Mine Road. Crews will work on building dozer lines throughout the day. It is 50% contained. The only areas still under a mandatory evacuation include Rainbow Lake Road, Buell Road, South Fork Road and all side roads that connect. Platina Road is now open from Ono to Platina. Gas Point Road is also open.

On the Motion Fire, Highway 299 is now OPEN. Fire crews may close it for a short time today for mop up. The fire slowed down last night because of cooler temps. Mandatory evacuations are still in place for American Mine Road, Cline Gulch Road and Grizzly Gulch Road in the French Gulch Road...that is off highway 299 east of French Gulch between the Merry and Mad Mule Mountains. In addition, an advisory evacuation was issued for Iron Mountain Road from Highway 299 to the Intersection of Rock Creek Road in the Shasta and Keswick areas.

In Butte County: The Camp Fire is 40% contained. The fire is holding. Fire crews say this is the best improvement since the blaze started. The West Branch is a priority today. The fire is holding at Highway 70. Hand crews will be out in full force.

In total, the Butte Lightning Complex is 55% contained. Evacuations have been lifted for the town of Paradise. All main roads are now open except Jordon Hill Road at Coutolenc Road. Also lifted were evacuations for Yankee Hill South to Lake Oroville and Truex Road West of Highway 70. The mandatory evacuation for the Big Bend area East of Highway 70 has been downgraded to a voluntary evacuation. The town of Concow is still under an immediate threat evacuation, as well as the communities of Jarbo Gap and Camelot. Highway 70 remains closed from Big Bend Road to the Greenville Y. Old Magalia and Coutolenc Road have gone from an immediate threat evacuation to a precautionary threat.

In Trinity County: The Iron Complex grew about 2300 acres since yesterday. The focus today will be on constructing and holding fire lines. The fire has started to burn in very difficult terrain. There is a potential threat to Junction City. All evacuation orders and road closures are still in effect.

The Lime Complex grew almost 17,000 acres since yesterday. It is moving towards the south. It's now a whopping 77,000 acres. It has gone from 65% containment to 55% because it merged with the Yolla Bally Fire. 200 National Guard Troops arrived yesterday to help with the Lime Complex. They will be out on the fire lines on Monday. Today, crews will work on containing the complex on the south side.

Paradise Evacuations Lifted

Sat, 07/12/2008 - 07:30

After 49,000 acres have burned, 50 residences destroyed and 30 injuries, fire crews are closing in on the Butte Lightning Complex, which was 50% contained as of 7pm Friday night.

Good news for the people of Paradise. **All Evacuation Advisories have been lifted for the town of Paradise and Upper Ridge community.** Officials are saying all main roads in Paradise and the Upper Ridge area are open to through traffic. Jordan Hill Road will remain closed at Coutolenc Road. Firefighters are still working in the area...so people returning home should use caution on the roadways.

Precautionary Evacuations are still in the following areas:
Magalia

Old Magalia
Coutolenc

Residents are reminded to continue to remain on high alert as conditions could change at a moment's notice.

Send in your pictures to news@krcrtv.com (<mailto:news@krcrtv.com>)



Trinity County Evacuation Updates

Sat, 07/12/2008 - 07:07

All advisory evacuations, voluntary evacuations and mandatory evacuations are the same.

Hyampom Road from 9 mile Bridge to the Bar 717 Ranch is closed in Hyampom.

Highway 299 East to Redding is open but can have periodic closures.

Fire Death in Butte County

Fri, 07/11/2008 - 13:32

The Sheriff's Office has confirmed the discovery of human remains in the Concow area. The remains were located in an evacuated area after the fires had destroyed the residence.

"We are saddened by the loss of one of our community members but hope that providing this information will encourage people in evacuation areas to heed the warnings so that they and their families would be safe," officials said.

It is important to keep in mind that evacuation orders are not made lightly and done in the interest of the safety of the people in the area being evacuated.

Further details will be available as they arrive.

Cooling Centers in Butte County

Fri, 07/11/2008 - 12:05

Butte County Public Health Department has coordinated several "cooling/cleaner air" centers for citizens who want to escape the hot weather and breathe cleaner air.

For a list of center locations go to: www.krcrtv.com/pressrelease (<http://www.krcrtv.com/pressrelease>)

Open, "CoolingCenters"

Press Releases for July 11, 2008

Fri, 07/11/2008 - 11:20

www.krcrtv.com/pressrelease (<http://www.krcrtv.com/pressrelease>)

Highway Closures

Fri, 07/11/2008 - 11:20

State Route 32 is closed from the Junction of SR 36 in Tehama County to Butte Meadows in Butte County, due to wildfire. There is no estimated time to reopen.

State Route 70 is closed from 10 miles west of Pulga, at Truex Rd in Butte County to the junction of State Route 89 at Greenville Wye in Plumas County due to fire activity.

New Evacuations

Fri, 07/11/2008 - 11:10

Mandatory evacs have been issued for American Mine Road and Cline Gulch Road in French Gulch. Officials say more evacuations in French Gulch may be forthcoming. They've also issued mandatory evac orders for Grizzly Gulch Road.

Precautionary evacuations have been ordered for Iron Mountain Road from 299 to Rock Creek Road.

All other evacuations and road closures remain in effect.

Four Times in 3 Weeks

Fri, 07/11/2008 - 10:03

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger was back in the north state yesterday at the Shasta District Fairgrounds in Anderson. He spent some time talking to firefighters and outlining future funding for natural disasters. While shaking hands and handing out breakfast the Governor brought some good news to tired crews. He wrote a letter to President Bush asking for more federal resources looking to ease the strain on crews on the front lines.

New I-Phone

Fri, 07/11/2008 - 10:01

Story image

The new I-Phone comes out today. The updated third generation I-phone is twice as fast as the previous model. Apple is selling the eight gigabyte version for \$200. It features GPS and works with Microsoft's corporate e-mail program. The 3G is less expensive than the previous version but AT&T is tacking on and extra \$10 a month for the faster internet service, add that to the cheaper price tag and you will actually spend more during the mandatory two year contract.

State Budget

Fri, 07/11/2008 - 09:59

Democratic lawmakers say they have a plan to fix the states budget but it is going to cost you. They are proposing more than eight billion dollars in tax hikes for the wealthiest Californians and then cut six billion dollars from education, health care, and public transit budgets. Lawmakers say it is a "Share the Pain" plan that in the end will benefit all Californian's.

Butte County Evacuation Information

Fri, 07/11/2008 - 09:33

The Butte County Emergency Operations Center has confirmed the following shelter information:

- o 107 people are staying in the shelter at Las Plumas High School, 2380 Las Plumas Ave. in Oroville. It has a capacity of 120 people.
- o The Neighborhood Church in Chico is at capacity. It was set up to accommodate 120 people. It is located at 2801 Notre Dame Blvd. in Chico

- The shelter in Yolo Hall at California State University, Chico currently has 31 people staying there. It has room for 119 people.

The Church of the Nazarene has been placed on stand by as a shelter until further notice. Evacuated residents have been relocated to Las Plumas High School.



[View Larger Map \(http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=115463017780611512345.000451b14c7ab38ed1a59&ll=39.603572,-121.691437&spn=0.370329,0.583649&z=10&source=embed\)](http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=115463017780611512345.000451b14c7ab38ed1a59&ll=39.603572,-121.691437&spn=0.370329,0.583649&z=10&source=embed)

Strong Winds Challenge Firefighters

Fri, 07/11/2008 - 07:11

Firefighters are up against high winds this Friday morning. Here's an update on some of the major fires burning across the North State.

Motion Fire

In Shasta County, the Motion fire burning southwest of Shasta Lake. The Shasta County Sheriff's Office tells us they are evacuating the area around highway 299 and whiskey Creek Road. Sheriff's Deputies are going through the area to make sure camp sites in the area are cleared out. Whiskey Town National Recreation Park is now closed and all activities are cancelled until further notice. Park Officials tell us they have closed due to the fires and the safety of the firefighters. On the Motion Fire, Cal Fire officials say the threat to a communications site on Southfork Mountain is over. A flare up on the North end of the fire is also causing problems. Fire fighters spent Thursday night working to get that under control. Evacuations are still in place for Rock Creek Road, Benson and Granite Drives, and the North end of Iron Mountain Road.

Moon Fire

Also in Shasta County, the Moon fire is still threatening the Igo Ono area. Firefighters say they saw some activity along Zogg Mine Road Thursday Night. They kept an eye on that Friday Morning. Fire officials tell us the fire is holding at Platina Road. They have seen an increase in acreage. The Moon Fire is now 27,843 Acres with 40% containment. Evacuations are still in pace Friday morning for Igo, Ono and points west of Placer and Gas Point Roads. No word on how long those evacuations will remain in place. An evacuation center has been set up at the Shasta Learning Center on Eureka way.

Camp Fire

In Butte County, about 3,900 homes in Paradise are threatened by the Camp Fire this Friday Morning. Firefighters have set up a fire line along the Feather River. They've also set up engines along the ridge to protect homes. One of the challenges on this fire is that it hasn't burned clean, meaning there is still vegetation that could catch fire.

Evacuations remain in place.

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area Closed Immediately

Fri, 07/11/2008 - 07:08

As the Whiskeytown, Moon and Motion Fires continue to burn through the mountains, the Superintendent of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area has closed for all activities, effective immediately until further notice. This includes pull-offs along Highway 299 also included in the closure area are the Carr Powerhouse, the Tower House Historic District.

The Superintendent lists all activities as:swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, camping, biking, and equestrian use.

"With all the fire activity from not only the Whiskeytown fire but the Moon and Motion fires we need to assure visitor and firefighter safety by closing the park," states a recent press release from the Superintendent.

Residents and park offices are being evacuated as the Motion Fire moves eastward into the park boundary.

Highway 299 remains open to traffic, though drivers are advised to use extreme caution.

Top Stories 7-11-08

Fri, 07/11/2008 - 07:00

Evacuation Status Change for Butte Meadows/Jonesville Area

Notice from the Butte County Emergency Operations Center:

The evacuation status for the Butte Meadows/Jonesville Area has been downgraded from Immediate Threat Evacuation status to Precautionary Evacuation status. Humboldt Road will remain closed at the point that the paved portion of the road ends, 3/4 of a mile past Jonesville at Jonesville Road (a.k.a. Scott's John Road).



Mandatory Evacuations, Critical Updates

Thu, 07/10/2008 - 17:22

There are now **MANDATORY** evacuations starting at Manzanita Ranch Road to West of the South Fork of the Trinity River to Big Slide Campground, from Big Slide Campground West to the Humboldt County/Trinity County line and North back up to Manzanita Ranch Road.



Effective immediately there are voluntary evacuations West of the South Fork of the Trinity River in Hyampom, due to the Grouse Fire. An evacuation shelter will be located at the Hyampom Community Center.

Top Stories 7-10-08

Thu, 07/10/2008 - 14:56

FOR RECENT PRESS RELEASES FROM VARIOUS AGENCIES FIGHTING THE FIRES, GO TO:

www.krcrtv.com/pressrelease (<http://www.krcrtv.com/pressrelease>)



Gov. Schwarzenegger Requests Additional Federal Help and Resources

Thu, 07/10/2008 - 13:50

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger sent the following letter to President Bush requesting additional federal resources that California urgently needs to fight the ongoing wildfires and prepare for more lightning strikes later this week.

The request includes:

- Federal active duty forces to provide additional Type II firefighting handcrews to meet shortages

- Additional out-of-state federal firefighters available to provide training for National Guard personnel as Type II handcrews
- Increasing the "Maximum Efficiency Level" (MEL) for the U.S. Forest Service to 100 percent

To read the entire text of Governor Schwarzenegger's letter go to www.krcc.com/letter (<http://www.krcc.com/letter>)

Butte County Evacuation Information

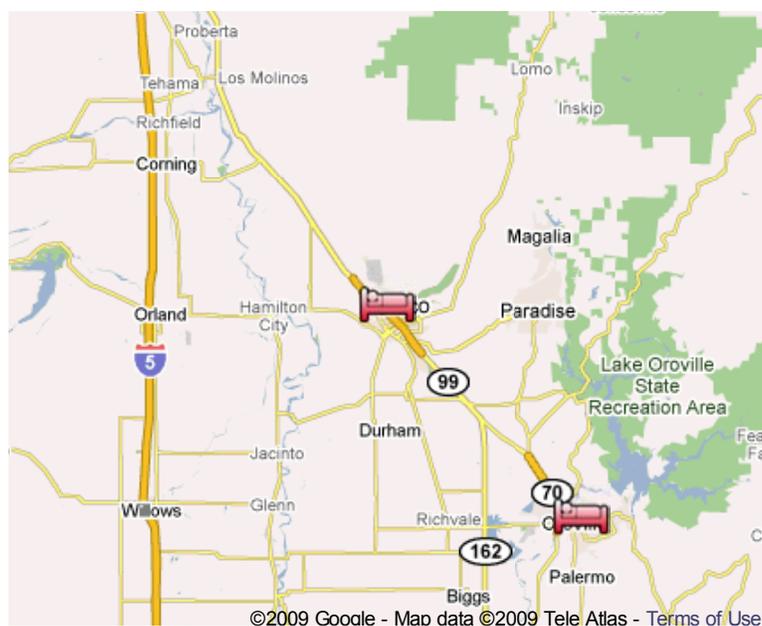
Thu, 07/10/2008 - 13:39

The Butte County Emergency Operations Center reported Thursday morning that the evacuation shelter at the Neighborhood Church in Chico continues to be at capacity, but the center at the Church of the Nazarene in Oroville has plenty of space available.

The Church of the Nazarene can accommodate 135 people and had only 26 people staying there at last check. It is located at 2238 Monte Vista Ave. in Oroville.

About 100 people are staying at the shelter located at Las Plumas High School, 2380 Las Plumas Ave. in Oroville. It has a capacity of 120 people.

The shelter in Yolo Hall at California State University, Chico currently has approximately 33 people. It has room for 119 people.



[View Larger Map](http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=115463017780611512345.000451b14c7ab38ed1a59&ll=39.736498,-121.835632&spn=0.739231,1.167297&z=9&source=embed) (<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=115463017780611512345.000451b14c7ab38ed1a59&ll=39.736498,-121.835632&spn=0.739231,1.167297&z=9&source=embed>)

Additionally, California State Parks is offering free campsites for displaced residents at the following locations:

Loafer Creek - 100 campsites (RV & tent) Bidwell Canyon - 50 campsites (RV & tent) North Forebay - 45 sites in parking lot (self-contained RVs only) Woodson Bridge State Park - 25 sites (RV & tent)

For more information call CA State Parks at (530) 538-2200, or check in at the site.

The large-animal shelter at the Chico State Farm is at capacity. The public is being advised at this point to seek private boarding for large animals. The Butte County Emergency Operations Center is working to find alternative shelter locations for large animals and pets.

North Valley Animal Rescue is coordinating shelter for small animals. Its telephone number is 530-895-0000.

Courtesy of:
Public Information Officer
Emergency Operations Center
County of Butte
530-538-2772

Feather River Hospital Remains Closed

Thu, 07/10/2008 - 13:23

The Feather River Hospital at the Pentz Road location and the Emergency Department remain closed due to air quality. Representatives from Feather River Hospital state, "There is still too much smoke and ash in the air to safely re-open the Emergency Department."

Hospital services are expected to be available at the Feather River Outpatient Center on Clark Road and at the Feather River Health Center on the Skyway. "Feather River Home Care Services are also expecting to be fully operational today, including Feather River Home Health, Feather River Hospice, Feather River Home Oxygen and Feather River Home Medical Equipment," states a press release from Feather River Hospital.

Feather River Hospital further state, "Employees are advised to stand by to be called in and to not come to the main campus. If community residents need to seek emergency medical attention, they are advised to consider an urgent care center or go to an emergency room at another local hospital. We apologize for this inconvenience, and will continue to provide updates as they become available."

The logo for KRCR-TV, featuring the call letters in a bold, white, sans-serif font against a blue background.

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Wildfire Smoke Smothers Reno

Thursday July 10, 2008

Just when I thought it couldn't get any worse, it has. A lot worse. Smoke began pouring over the Sierra on Wednesday and by evening our whole area was socked in. My picture was taken around 8 p.m. Wednesday, looking northwest across the city. Downtown Reno is obscured, along with the mountains normally seen in the background. Today is just as bad. It creates an uncomfortable, ominous atmosphere, not to mention being downright unhealthy.

According to Mike Alger, our KTVN channel 2 weather guy, most of the smoke is coming from big fires currently burning near Auburn, CA, about 100 miles to the west along I80. We can look forward to at least another day or two of the same due to a high pressure system sitting on top of us and virtually no wind.

As I write, we're sitting under a [Stage 1 Air Quality Alert](#) issued by the Air Quality Management Division (AQMD) of the Washoe County District Health Department. According to a recent press release, "AQMD is stressing the need for everyone to stay indoors until the smoke moves out of the Truckee Meadows. Residents are strongly urged to refrain from outdoor activities including all sports practices, until the smoke clears." Get updates on the air quality situation by calling the Air Quality Hotline at (775) 785-4110, or the AQMD office at (775) 784-7200. The [National Weather Service Reno Forecast Office](#) is a good source for information about how long we can expect to be living under this pall of smoke.



Wildfire smoke smothers Reno and the Truckee Meadows.
Photo © Stan White

I'm trying to limit my outdoor activities until this lets up some. What are you doing to cope?

[Prev](#) [Next](#)



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Smoke From Fires Prompts Air Alert in Nevada

Posted: 7:57 AM Jul 10, 2008

Last Updated: 10:06 AM Jul 11, 2008

Reporter: Martin Griffith AP

RENO, Nev. (AP) - Increased smoke from California wildfires has put northern Nevada's air in the unhealthful range again, health officials said Thursday.



Children and people with respiratory problems were advised to stay indoors in the Reno, Carson City and Minden areas along the eastern Sierra.

The National Weather Service issued an "air stagnation alert" for much of the Sierra and western Nevada, including the Reno-Lake Tahoe area.

Pollution and smoke might increase to dangerous levels until the alert expires at noon Friday, according to the weather service.

Visibilities will drop to below a mile in the Sierra at times, and below three miles in western Nevada valleys, the weather service added.

Tracie Douglas, spokeswoman for the Washoe District Health Department, said deteriorating air quality could trigger a Stage 2 pollution alert by Friday in Reno.

That would put air quality in the "very unhealthful" range and result in a recommendation that all residents stay indoors, she said.

A Stage 2 alert was issued June 25 in Reno, the first such alert that Douglas could recall in her 21 years with the department.

"The biggest problem is we have no control strategies for this," she said. "In winter, we do have control strategies such as bans on using woodstoves. At this point, this is Mother Nature and there's not a thing we can do."

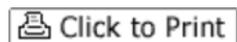
Air quality has been in the unhealthful range off and on in the Reno-Tahoe area since lightning touched off hundreds of wildfires in California more than two weeks ago.

The blazes have burned nearly 1,100 square miles and destroyed nearly 100 homes. Some 1,460 fires had been contained, but more than 320 were still active Thursday, authorities said.

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Waiting for the smoke to clear

Steve Rubenstein, Chronicle Staff Writer

Saturday, July 12, 2008

The air quality outlook for Northern California:

Bay Area: Smoke from hundreds of wildfires has hung over the Bay Area for nearly a week, but air quality will improve over the next couple of days, said analysts with the Bay Area Air

Quality Management District. Even so, air pollution levels will reach the moderate range in parts of the North Bay, East Bay and Santa Clara Valley, they said. Along the coast and the bay, air quality will be good.

Sacramento area: The air is getting better, sort of - on Saturday it will be only "unhealthy" instead of the "very unhealthy" level reached Thursday, the Sacramento Regional Air Quality Resource said.

Lake Tahoe: The area will be less than pristine, with "widespread smoky conditions" continuing to affect all of Placer County and pollution levels expected to be moderate to "hazardous."

Monterey: Air quality has been good, even though the Basin Complex Fire continues to rage, according to air quality experts there. But southerly winds predicted for this weekend could blow the smoke north, into Monterey and Carmel.

Butte County: At the site of the still-raging Butte Lightning Complex wildfire, air quality ranges from "unhealthy" to "very unhealthy" to "hazardous," and the entire county remains a good place for weekend wanderers to steer clear of.

- Steve Rubenstein

E-mail Steve Rubenstein at srubenstein@sfchronicle.com.

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/07/12/BAAP11NU10.DTL>

This article appeared on page **B - 2** of the San Francisco Chronicle

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A 9-year-old's view of London

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News Archives

New Shasta District Fair Board Member

Tue, 07/15/2008 - 16:19

Michael Sanders, 61, of Redding, has been appointed to the Shasta District Fair Board of Directors (27th District Agriculture Association). Since 2004, he has owned Shasta Office Services. Previously, Sanders was president of Airport Printing and Mailing from 1982 to 2003. He is a member of the National and Local Order of the Eastern Star and Loyal Order of the Moose. Additionally, Sanders is a member of Another Chance Animal Welfare League Board of Directors. This position does not require Senate confirmation and there is no salary.

Top Stories 7-15-08

Tue, 07/15/2008 - 14:07



Tiny Houses

Tue, 07/15/2008 - 09:56



If you think your house is small, a California man may have you beat. Jay Shafer was fed up with taking care of more space than he needed so he built a 96-square-foot house. Two years later, Shafer now travels with his house in tow teaching people how to design their own homes ranging from 70 to nearly 1,000 square feet. Shafer says living in a tiny home is good for the environment and for his wallet especially when it comes to utility bills. He says the only disadvantage is he can not have a large party.

President Bush Coming to Redding

Tue, 07/15/2008 - 09:51

Even the President is taking note of the fires. He will be flying into Redding Thursday.

Air Force One will be landing at Redding municipal airport. News Channel 7 has learned the President will land sometime Thursday afternoon aboard the 747. Shortly after landing, the President is expected to hop on board a helicopter to tour the fire damage. Airports manager Rod Dinger says his team is ready.

Highway 299

Tue, 07/15/2008 - 09:50

No word yet on whether or not Highway 299 in Redding will be closed again. For now Highway 299 in Redding is back open. Officials say the road has been opened to traffic both ways but controlled one way at a time. Cal Trans may close the road down again today but it all depends on whether or not Cal Fire decides to do more firing operations.

CA National Guard and Northstate Firefighters

Tue, 07/15/2008 - 09:49

Some are calling it groundbreaking. For the first time in more than 30 years, the California National Guard is working side-by-side with firefighters in the Northstate.

They have been to Bosnia and now, 200 members of the California National Guard are in the Northstate on the frontlines of California's historic fire storm.

One Guard said, "We go in there with the responsibility of helping the local communities."

Sergeant Hallie Boone is one of five women in the alpha company-third platoon. At just 25 years old, she has been with the National Guard since 2000 and until now, has never been deployed statewide.

Hallie had this to say, "When I first joined, that's what I was excited about was doing earthquake recovery or fighting a fire-but other things came up. But, the whole groundbreaking thing, it really is, because we're now being used on our soil to help our country."

Helping his country is something Sergeant Robert Balderrama knows all about. He has served two tours in Iraq. Still, this Los Angeles native says there is something to be said about home sweet home.

Balderrama, "Just the appreciation and the thank you from actual American citizen; it's the best thing you can tell a soldier."

Trekking through hot spots compared to war zones does pose different challenges the Sergeant continues, "The heat. Heat's been very difficult. The work load. We're doing a lot more manual labor than a lot of us are used to."

But, at the end of the day this group says it is all worth it.

Platoon 3, "Hu Rah!" No word yet on how long the National Guard will be in Trinity County. One representative tells us as long as we need them, they are staying put.

US Bank Robbery

Tue, 07/15/2008 - 09:48

The suspect in a Redding bank robbery did not get far. Police say the suspect showed a note demanding money to tellers at the downtown Redding US bank and just a few hours later his car was spotted by the Anderson Police Department. Officers say most of the money it is believed he got away with has been recovered.

New Yorker Controversial Cover

Tue, 07/15/2008 - 09:44



The New Yorker is taking rumors on the campaign trail and bringing them out of discussion with a controversial cover. Some say its satire, some say it is going too far.

The cover depicts Barack Obama in the Oval Office wearing Muslim garb bumping fists with his wife, Michelle who is sporting military fatigues and an assault rifle. The cover even includes an American flag burning in the background and a picture of Osama Bin Laden hanging over the fireplace. The magazine says it is making fun of the rumors about Obama swirling around the internet. But many say it is offensive and now the magazine is left to defend its image.

Evacuations Still in Place for Shasta & Trinity Counties

Tue, 07/15/2008 - 09:41

There are no changes in evacuations in Shasta and Trinity county. Several people are still waiting for word to go home but Cal Fire is not sure when those evacuations will be lifted.

Mandatory evacuations by the Trinity County Sheriff's Department are in effect for Cedar Flat, Friedrich Road, Corral Bottom Ranch, Haglund Ranch, and the area starting at Manzanita Ranch Road to west of the South Fork of the Trinity River to Big Slide Campground west to the county line and north back up to Manzanita Ranch Road. Voluntary evacuations are in place for Swede Creek and Trinity Village. An evacuation advisory has been issued for the residents of Del Loma, Hawkins Bar, Denny, and Fisher Road from "The Colony" up to the end of the road.

For more information access ShastaTrinity update and the FireContainmentMap at www.krcrtv.com/pressrelease (<http://www.krcrtv.com/pressrelease>)

Largest Fire Event in History?

Tue, 07/15/2008 - 09:37

The Governor's emergency office is now calling the wildfires the single largest fire event in history for California. Across California the recent fires have scorched 829,000 acres or nearly 1,300 square miles since June 21st. That is more than the October 2003 blazes which burned nearly 740,000 acres.

After questioning from the Mercury News, Schwarzenegger's office said, "Um, maybe not . . ."

Finally, the office settled on calling this the "biggest fire siege on record."

Highway 299 Reopens

Mon, 07/14/2008 - 19:25

Highway 299 is open tonight to one way controlled traffic with a pilot car. Cal-Trans opened the road shortly before 6 pm. Officials tell KRCR News Channel 7 that the road will continue to be opened to one way traffic through the night. They are planning to close to road tomorrow morning at 11 am.

NASA To Help Fight Fires

Mon, 07/14/2008 - 14:06

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today joined NASA and federal and state fire officials at the NASA Ames Research Center in Moffett Field to tour the facility and discuss the important role of NASA's remotely piloted aircraft, named Ikhana, to California's firefight. The unmanned aircraft carrying a NASA infrared scanning sensor flew over much of California this past week, gathering information that was delivered to fire commanders in the field "helping them understand the terrain and behavior of the state's most dangerous fires.

"California's unprecedented number of fires this early in the season make it all the more important that we use every tool at our disposal to protect property and save lives," Governor Schwarzenegger said. "NASA's Ikhana is one more incredible tool that we are able to use this year to bring real-time pictures and data to fire commanders, even when our other aircraft are unable to fly. The federal government has been an active partner in helping California fight fires, and NASA's assistance is one more example of that cooperation."



The images are collected onboard the Ikhana and transmitted through a communications satellite to NASA's Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, CA, where they are superimposed over Google Earth and Microsoft Virtual Earth maps to better visualize the location and scope of the fires. The imagery is then transmitted to the Multi-Agency Coordination Center in Redding and the State Operations Center in Sacramento, which distributes it to incident commanders in the field, so they can deploy resources where it will have the greatest benefit.

Evacuees in Shasta County

Mon, 07/14/2008 - 11:14

Evacuees in Shasta County have one place to go right now. The Red Cross has set up at the Shasta Learning Center

on Eureka Way in Redding.

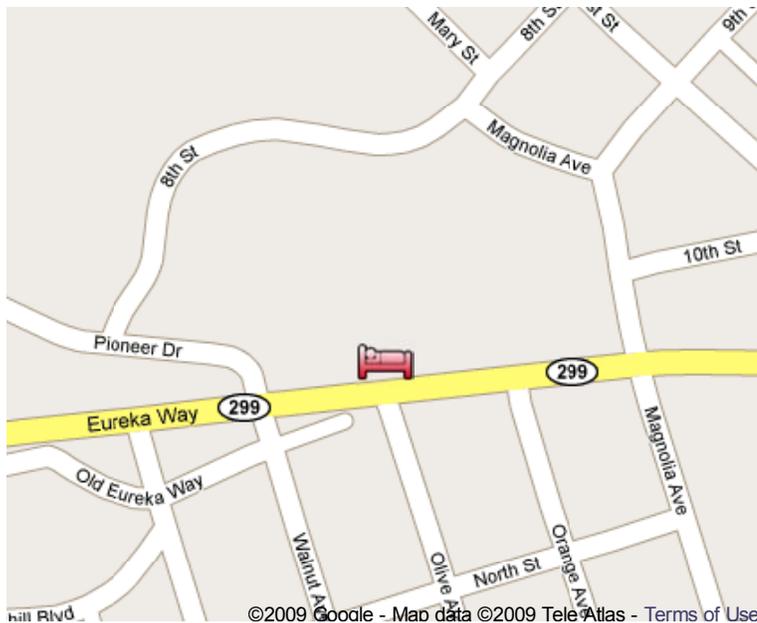
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City: REDDING

State: CA

Zip: 96001

Phone: (530)246-4050



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National Guard Coming to Hayfork

Mon, 07/14/2008 - 11:10

Hayfork in Trinity County is getting some much-needed backup to combat the Lime Complex Fires. Today 200 National Guard members will hit the fire lines. The guard members arrived in Hayfork Friday. The Gaurd spent the weekend receiving extra fire training; previously the Gaurd spent a week stationed at McClellan Air Force Base just outside of Sacramento.

Concow Going Home

Mon, 07/14/2008 - 11:09

The Butte Lightning complex is no longer an imminent threat to homes, yesterday Concow Residents were allowed to go home.

The immediate threat evacuations were lifted. Most people were anxious to return to their neighborhoods but fearful about what they would see once they got there. Richard Madsen owns three homes. Two were saved and the other was destroyed. He says his community will pull together and help each other out.

Ask Your Insurance Agent

Mon, 07/14/2008 - 11:07

If you were forced from your home insurance agencies say help is there, but you have to ask for it.

Chico Butte County Evacuees at the Neighborhood Church have a lot of concerns. After all, who is ready for the added expense of being evacuated? All State Insurance agents say some insurance policies will reimburse you for expenses; however, homeowners have to check with insurance agents to find out.

MORE EVACUATIONS LIFTED

Mon, 07/14/2008 - 07:04

EVACUATIONS

Shasta County:

Mandatory evacuations are still in effect for:

- The north end of Iron Mountain Road
- Corram Ranch
- Rock Creek Road
- Benson Drive
- Granite Drive
- Whiskey Creek Road north of Hwy 299
- Southfork Lookout Road

An Advisory is still in effect for:

- Keswick
- Old Shasta north of Hwy 299

An Advisory means that people living in the area should stay aware and be prepared to evacuate if it becomes necessary.

All Evacuations in Igo and Ono have been lifted.

The Evacuation Center at the Shasta Learning Center on Eureka Way in Redding is still open.

Trinity County

Mandatory evacuations are still in effect for:

- Cedar Flat
- Friedrich Road
- Corral Bottom
- Haglund Ranch
- Area South of Manzanita Ranch Road and West of the South fork of the Trinity River

Voluntary Evacuations are still in effect for:

- Swede Creek
- Trinity Village

Butte County:

All Mandatory and Voluntary Evacuations have been lifted

ROAD CLOSURES

Shasta County:

-Highway 299 is now open to traffic both ways, but only one lane. Pilot cars are taking traffic one direction at a time until 11 A.M. Tuesday when it could be closed again.

Butte County:

-State Route 32 remains closed from the Junction of SR 36 in Tehama County to Butte Meadows in Butte County, due to wildfire. There is no estimated time to reopen.

-The closure on State Route 70 in Butte County has been lifted. State Route 70 is currently opened to one-way controlled traffic from 5 miles west of Pulga to Pulga. Caltrans will be removing tree snags and doing some fire debris clean up. Motorist should use caution. Traffic control at the Greenville Wye and Big Bend Road has been lifted.

-Beginning at 11:00 a.m., July 14, 2008, State Route 299 in Shasta County will be closed to westbound traffic at Buenaventura Blvd, (only residents with I.D. allowed) and closed to eastbound traffic at Buckhorn Summit in Trinity County (only residents with I.D. allowed). State Route 299 will be under full closure to all traffic on from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. today and tomorrow, between Rock Creek Road and Whiskey Creek Road due to increased fire activity.

Shasta Trintity Fire Update

Sun, 07/13/2008 - 22:55

Shifting winds, heavy fuel loading, low relative humidity, 100+ degree temperatures, steep topography, and remote access are all contributing to fire movement. Despite those factors, weather patterns are improving for Sunday with favorable winds.

The Motion Fire continues to progress west and south with significant spotting and is still threatening Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and the Whiskey Creek Campground and Day Use area. A large operation is planned today to fire from South Fork Lookout Road along Highway 299 to Whiskey Creek and will cause intermittent closures of State Highway 299 West during the operation.

The Moon Fire experienced activity on the west and southwest flanks. Re-population of the towns of Igo and Ono are taking place, though the areas of Rainbow Lake and Zogg Mine are still threatened.

IR flights continue to assist in mapping fire perimeters. Priority areas remain those with citizens, residential and critical infrastructure threats. National Guard helicopters and fixed wing aircraft are assisting in water and retardant dropping efforts. The Martin Mars and DC 10 air tankers have been requested again today.

For the complete update view the Shasta Trintity Fact Sheet at www.krcrtv.com/pressrelease (<http://www.krcrtv.com/pressrelease>)

Community Meetings in Junction City and Hayfork

Sun, 07/13/2008 - 22:37

JUNCTION CITY, Calif. – There will be a community meeting tomorrow evening, July 14, at 6:00 pm, at the community hall on Dutch Creek Road. The meeting will cover the current fire situation on the Iron Complex. The community hall is next to the Incident Command Post.

HAYFORK, Calif. – There will be a community meeting tomorrow evening, July 14, at 7:00 pm at Hayfork High School, in the cafeteria. The meeting will cover the current fire situation on the Lime Complex.

Wildlife moves to lower elevation

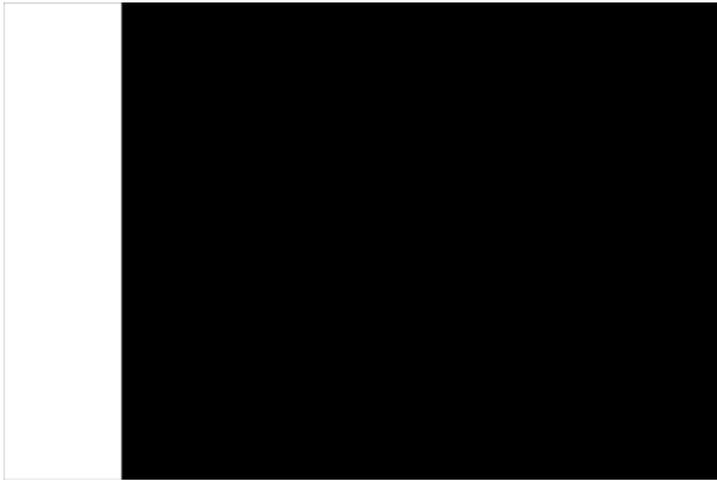
Sun, 07/13/2008 - 19:26

It would make sense that as wildfires rage through the higher elevations surrounding the valley, wildlife will seek lower elevations. Though the authenticity of these viewer pictures has not been verified, we thought they were worth sharing.

The pictures were submitted by viewer Harold Underwood, who claims they were taken outside of his son's family home in Redding, off of Lower Spring Road on Saturday, July 12, 2008.



Sun, 07/13/2008 - 18:44



Viewer Wanda Brandon from Shasta Lake sent these pictures in to KRCR, along with her gratitude for all of the hard work our fire crews continue to put forth.

send your pictures to news@krcrtv.com (<mailto:news@krcrtv.com>)

Trinity County Updates

Sun, 07/13/2008 - 12:11

Here is an update for Sunday, July 13, 2008:

Advisory Evacuations for:

- Del Loma as of Thursday, July 10, 2008, due to the Cedar Fire.
- Hawkins Bar as of Tuesday July 8, 2008, due to the Zeigler Fire.
- Denny as of Tuesday, July 8, 2008, due to the Zeigler Fire.

Voluntary Evacuations for:

- Swede Creek, due to the Cedar Fire.
- Trinity Village, due to the Zeigler Fire.

Mandatory Evacuations for:

- Friedrich Road near Cedar Flat, due to the Cedar Fire.
- Cedar Flat, due to the Cedar Fire.
- Corral Bottom, due to the Cedar Fire.
- Northwest Hyampom starting at Manzanita Ranch Road to West of the South Fork of the Trinity River to Big Slide Campground, from Big Slide Campground West to the Humboldt County/Trinity County line and North back up to Manzanita Ranch Road, due to the Grouse Fire.
- Fisher Road from the Colony up to the end of the road, due to the Zeigler Fire.

Roads:

- Hyampom Road is now open.
- Denny Road is still closed except to residents.

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area Update

Sun, 07/13/2008 - 12:03

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area remains closed to due to wild fire activity from the neighboring Motion and Moon Fires. The Incident Management Team and cooperating agencies will continue to evaluate when to open the park to the public. Great progress has been made on the Whiskeytown Complex Fires within the park boundary.

Whiskeytown Fire

Location: 10 miles west of Redding on Shasta Bally Mountain, Whiskeytown NRA

Start Date: June 21, 2008

Cause: Lightning

Size: 6,240 acres

Containment: 100%

Estimated Cost: \$8.640 million

Total Staff: 429

Management Team: Type 2 Northern Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team

Committed Resources: 12 Engines, 11 Crews, Overhead 106, 5 Watertender, 3 Helicopters

Status: Fire crews continue to patrol and mop up. Crews continue to work with Cal Fire keeping the fire from crossing the jeep trail near Zogg Mine Road.

The Butte Joint Information Center Offers Updates

Sun, 07/13/2008 - 10:36

It is important to reiterate that all residents who live in or near the affected areas, or are returning to their homes subsequent to the downgrading of evacuation orders, should remain alert and be prepared for additional evacuations if conditions change. Remain calm and follow all instructions of fire and law enforcement officials. Official are encouraging residents to monitor the fire situations in and around their areas via local radio, television and other media outlets and through CAL FIRE at www.fire.ca.gov (<http://www.fire.ca.gov>) and the Butte County website at www.buttecounty.net (<http://www.buttecounty.net>). If conditions change, fire and law enforcement officials will make immediately notification. Preservation of life remains the No. 1 priority.

For more detailed information go to www.krcrtv.com/pressrelease (<http://www.krcrtv.com/pressrelease>)

Updated Road Status in Butte County

Sun, 07/13/2008 - 07:33

Hard Closures:

- * Highway 32, 13 miles East of Forest Ranch
- * Highway 70 from Big Bend Rd. to Highway 89 at the Greenville Wye
- * (Paradise Area) Jordan Hill Road at Coutolenc Road
- * (Butte Meadows/ Jonesville Area) Humboldt Road $\frac{3}{4}$ mi. East of Jonesville

Resident Access only areas:

Concow Area

- * Lunt Road (west) at Highway 70
- * Concow Road at Highway (only access to Concow, ID required)
- * Pinkston Canyon Road at Highway 70
- * Deadwood Road at Highway 70
- * Andy Mountain Road at Highway 70
- * Bardees Bar at Big Bend Road
- * Jordan Hill Road at Concow Road
- * Big Bend Road at Highway 70

Berry Creek/Bald Rock

- * Bald Rock Road at Oro Quincy Highway
- * Bald Rock Road at Graystone Lane
- * Rockefeller Road at Bald Rock Road
- * Zink Road at Bald Rock Road
- * French Creek Road at Oro Quincy Highway

* 4 Mile Ridge Road at Oro Quincy Highway





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When bad air is worse

Quirks in reporting can understate extent of pollution.

By Chris Bowman - cbowman@sacbee.com
Published 12:00 am PDT Sunday, July 13, 2008

When smoke in fire-besieged California is at its worst, the public often doesn't get to see just how bad it is.

Hourly air pollution readings on the Internet suddenly go blank for long stretches of the day. Worse, they show levels known to kill people with heart or lung disease. Smoke this bad also doesn't figure into the color-coded Air Quality Index that helps millions plan their day.

The high-end measurements are real, but state and local air officials frequently exclude the data as invalid because of a quirk in federal rules.

The results can be misleading data on the true nature of the air people breathe when multiple fires foul the skies. That happened at least twice during the recent spate of major fires that choked the Sacramento Valley and Sierra foothills.

These are among the undisclosed shortcomings of air pollution reports, according to smog officials interviewed by The Bee last week, when pollution peaked in the Sacramento region.

California Air Resources Board officials acknowledged that the exclusions of extreme smoke episodes can distort air quality data, making conditions appear better than they are. Regulators do, however, consider those unreported readings in drafting public health advisories, said Jeff Cook, who coordinates the air board's "emergency response" in smoke-choked areas.

"This is an unusual situation, and we want to see as much of the data as we possibly can," Cook said Friday.

People who rely on the news media or local air districts' Web pages for the daily pollution readings or AQI, however, are unknowingly getting an incomplete picture at a time when health risks are the most extreme.

Such was the case last week in the Sierra foothills communities of Quincy and Paradise, northeast of Sacramento.

The air board's Web site, under a database known as AQMIS, shows maximum AQI levels in Quincy on Thursday and Friday as 218 and 290, respectively.

That's within the red-colored "very unhealthy" range, meaning people with heart or lung disease, the elderly and children should avoid all outdoor activity, and everyone else should avoid prolonged exertion.

Had air officials included the worst pollution episodes on those days, Quincy residents would have learned that the air actually was more dangerous.

From 3 p.m. Thursday to 6 a.m. Friday, particle pollution from the Canyon Complex fire reached concentrations of 434 to 500 on the AQI, said Joe Fish, deputy air pollution control officer for the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District.

"Quincy just got hammered," Fish said.

At those levels, air is considered "hazardous" – color-coded maroon – meaning people with heart or lung disease are at risk of dying, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which devised the AQI. All other adults "should avoid all physical activity outdoors," and children "should remain indoors." Fortunately, most Quincy residents were presumably indoors and asleep when smoke was thickest.

Fish said he had never seen pollution levels stay so high for so long in wildfires.

He nonetheless "got rid" of the data because of technical anomalies: A newly installed air monitor in Quincy was registering the wrong year on the sampling dates, he said.

In addition, Fish said EPA pollution reporting protocols required him and any other air pollution control official in the state to scrub the data as invalid.

"That doesn't necessarily mean data was wrong or inaccurate," Fish said. "When you monitor (air quality), the EPA is very, very picky."

Officials monitoring smoke from the fire near Paradise also are excluding many of the highest pollution readings from the public database because smoke that thick begins to clog monitors.

"Some of the numbers that we're seeing that will probably be thrown out are 600, 700, 800," said Bob McLaughlin, assistant chief of the Butte County Air Quality Management District. Those concentrations all fall well within the "hazardous" range.

Accuracy isn't the issue, McLaughlin said.

"We think those numbers are real numbers – and they are pretty close to what's going on," he said.

Cook, who manages quality control of pollution data at the state air board, agrees that readings from monitors with reduced air flow are accurate and said the data should be included in public air quality reports.

"We want to see that data for the public health advisories," Cook said.

The air flow problem with the samplers generally occurs when they pick up thick smoke from nearby fires, according to David Gobeli of Met One Instruments Inc. in Grants Pass, Ore., which supplies most of California's pollution monitors.

The model, BAM-1020, is designed to operate at more common particle pollution levels, below 100 on the AQI. At 300 and above, smoke tends to clog filters and cut the flow of air into the instrument, Gobeli said.

Outside of the EPA-specified flow range, the devices can't separate larger dust particles from smaller ones that are of greater health concern, such as from auto exhaust and wildfires.

That's important for consistency in the EPA's enforcement of national clean-air standards for particle pollution.

With wildfire smoke, however, virtually all particles picked up by monitors are the smaller ones, no matter the flow rate, Cook said.

"I don't think we are compromising our ability to make health determinations," he said.

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Smoke Drifts into the Sierra Foothills

Written for the web by Posted By: [Karen Massie](#), Reporter

AUBURN, CA - Sacramento area residents awoke Friday morning to a little less smoke. But the dirty air that's been causing itchy eyes and throats has moved into the Sierra Foothills.

Smoke from North California wildfires was very thick in Auburn Friday, which is usually above the smoke, smog and fog line. The haze forced the shutdown of the Sierra pool.

"We closed it Monday due to the safety of the children, our lifeguards and the public," said Auburn Recreation District Marketing Director Manouch Shirvanioun.

Swim lessons, swim team events and public swimming times were all cancelled. "We usually would have at least 100 people here," Shirvanioun said.

However, some people have to be out in the dirty air. Sweat was trickling down Ken Burroughs' face as he repaired a building at the city pool before swimmers return. "It's pretty miserable. I'm drinking about a gallon of water," said the recreation district maintenance man.

Burroughs admitted he smokes cigarettes. "But I've slowed down," he said. "You don't need to smoke cigarettes with all the smoke in the air like this."

Suzanne Hughes stopped by the park beside the pool for a break with her dog. They were on their way to see relatives in Lake Tahoe. "It's just horrible," said Hughes looking skyward. "With all the fires in the state, it's incredible. I live in San Francisco and its smoky there, too."

She said she wanted to leave the smoke behind by traveling to the mountains, but a conversation with her father had dashed her hopes. "It seems like every day is different. One day, it's clear. The next day, it's smoky. When I was up there last week, there was a thin layer of smoke on the lake. It was very visible," Hughes said.

"I feel it right here in my lungs. I've never seen anything like this," Placer County Air Pollution District officer Ann Hobbs said. Hobbs said a smoke advisory will remain in effect in Placer County through Monday.

"Folks should minimize their exposure to the smoke in this area," she warned. "They should have as quiet a weekend as possible with the least amount of outdoor activity as possible."

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Jul 14, 2008 11:46 pm US/Pacific

Wildfire Season Now Worst In California History

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MOFFETT FIELD (CBS 5 / AP / BCN) — California officials said that this year's wildfires have resulted in the most acreage ever burned in recorded state history. More than 1,700 wildfires have scorched the state this season, burning a total of 829,000 acres — or nearly 1,300 square miles — as of Monday.

The current complex of fires is "the largest single fire event in history for California," said Kelly Houston, spokesman for the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

The previous record was set in the October 2003, when wildfires scorched more than 1,155 square miles, Houston said. State record-keeping on wildfires began in 1936.

Firefighting Drone Deployed

Also on Monday, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger toured the NASA Ames Research Center at Moffett Field, where he credited the use of NASA-developed technology for its contributions to firefighting efforts that saved lives last week.

An unmanned drone using infrared technology discovered a hot flare-up in a canyon near the town of Paradise, prompting fire officials to issue evacuation orders for 10,000 people. Thick smoke and heat had prevented other aircraft from patrolling the area.

"The NASA drone is really a spectacular development," said Schwarzenegger, who referred to the aircraft as the one of the "most exciting new weapons in our firefighting arsenal."

"This unmanned plane is a true life-saver. But even though we get all this terrific help, California needs more resources, there's no two ways about it,"



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A firefighter uses a flare to start a back fire to clear brush near a home in Northern California.

Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

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Schwarzenegger explained, as he pushed an initiative to charge homeowners a fee to pay for emergency response equipment.

Monterey County

The massive Basin Complex wildfire in the Los Padres National Forest continued spreading north and east Monday, relieving the danger to the storied coastal town of Big Sur but forcing residents of another community to stay away from their homes for a third day.

Mandatory and voluntary evacuation orders, first issued Saturday, remained in place for more than 200 homes in the rural Cachagua community near the northern boundary of the forest.

This area included all of Tassajara Road as well as Cachagua Road from the intersection of Tassajara Road to Trampa Canyon Road.

In addition, a voluntary evacuation along Carmel Valley Road was upgraded Monday to a mandatory evacuation. The road was closed to all traffic except emergency vehicles between Martin Road and Piney Creek Road.

The blaze, which already had charred 187 square miles and destroyed 27 homes, was about 1 1/2 miles from the residential area, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

Firefighters had a strong fire line there that they expected to hold, keeping the flames from reaching the more populated Carmel Valley, said Tacy Skinner, a Forest Service spokeswoman.

On the southwest border of the blaze, which was 61 percent contained, firefighters were in cleanup mode Monday.

The Pacific Coast Highway fully reopened ahead of schedule a day earlier, as crews now focused their efforts east of the highway, and residents and business owners were settling back in after three weeks of evacuations.

However, all state parks and many other roadways in the region remained closed as more than 2,000 fire personnel battled the blaze.

The raging fire, which began in late June after a lightning strike ignited brush in the area, has cost around \$45 million to fight and is not expected to be contained until July 30.

Inyo County

A large cleanup effort was under way in the eastern Sierra Nevada town of Independence, where a weekend mudslide on fire-scarred land forced residents to evacuate their homes.

Crews were working Monday to clear mud and debris from state Highway 395, about 90 miles east of Fresno, said Carma Roper, spokeswoman for the Inyo County Sheriff's department.

The huge mudslide, caused by severe thunderstorms over an area ravaged by fire last year, was still blocking all but one lane of the road, and the California Highway Patrol was escorting vehicles through the blocked area, she said.

As the mud oozed across the highway, some of it came within a half mile of the Los Angeles Aqueduct, which supplies much of Los Angeles' water.

The mud avalanche damaged about 55 homes, and about 25 of them are now uninhabitable because mud had swallowed the structures, Roper said.

"There aren't really houses to go back to," she said. "It's not a liveable area."

Kern County

The rain also caused some problems for the area around the Piute Fire, which has charred the Sequoia National Forest for the past three weeks.

The moisture helped calm the flames, but contributed to flooding in Lake Isabella, located in a canyon in the southern Sierra Nevada.

While officials planned to lift the last of the fire evacuations related to that blaze, evacuation orders remained for 75 Lake Isabella homes threatened by flooding.

The Piute fire was 68 percent contained after burning 57 square miles.

Butte County

Cooler weather around the state allowed officials to lift evacuation orders in the fire-ravaged towns of Paradise and Concow.

The Butte Lightning Complex fires, which burned 83 square miles and destroyed 50 homes in Butte County, weren't threatening any homes Monday, officials said.

"Things still seem to be looking pretty good. They are still making progress on it, I haven't heard of any problems today," said Kevin Colburn, a state fire department spokesman in Butte.

He added that expected triple-digit temperatures never materialized Monday. Highs were in the mid-90s, helping the firefight.

At least one person was found dead after the blaze swept through Concow. Officials have not released the person's identity, and the cause of death had not been determined.

Mendocino County

Fires that have been burning in Mendocino County for the past three weeks have consumed 53,300 acres but were 85 percent contained Monday.

Cal Fire officials indicated that roughly 130 fires were started by lightning strikes on June 20-21 in the county.

The largest fire still burning was the 8,020-acre Red Mountain fire near Cummings, Leggett and Leggett Valley.

The Sugarloaf Fire in the Cold Springs area has consumed 6,105 acres, and the Hardy Creek Fire near Rockport has burned 5,581 acres. They both posed a moderate threat to residents but firefighters were nearing containment, Cal Fire said.

An evacuation warning was lifted Sunday for the community of Rockport. The cost of fighting the fires was now at \$37.1 million.

The fires have resulted in 42 injuries and one death, an Anderson Valley Fire Department volunteer who suffered a heart attack. Two homes were destroyed and 30 are threatened, Cal Fire said.

Favorable weather conditions are expected over the next several days, and full containment should happen this week. Approximately 2,154 fire personnel were still fighting the blazes.

Santa Barbara County

In the southern extension of the Los Padres forest near Santa Barbara, another wildfire there also benefited from more favorable weather.

After charring more than 15 square miles, 55 homes still remained under an evacuation warning due to the Gap Fire.

Fire crews had contained 90 percent of the blaze and expected to complete the containment lines on Wednesday, said U.S. Forest Service spokesman David Daniels said.

"We're starting to get close," he proclaimed.

Other Fires

A pair of blazes burning in the foothills west of Lake Tahoe were sending plumes of smoke toward the alpine resort area. The soot was sporadic, but air quality was so bad it prompted the cancellation of the annual Donner Lake Triathlon.

And another blaze in the Sequoia National Forest east of Bakersfield was 68 percent contained after burning more than 58 square miles, said Forest Service spokeswoman Laurie Rotbart.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said 288 blazes were still burning around the state, most of them in the mountains ringing the northern edge of the Central Valley.

So far this fire season, flames have destroyed about 100 homes across California. Most of the blazes were sparked by a June 21 lightning storm across the northern part of the state.

Cal Fire updates on all the major blazes burning throughout the state are available online at: http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_current.

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July 15, 2008, 9:28 am

California Wildfires Set a Record

By [Mike Nizza](#)



The fire that threatened Big Sur. (Jim Wilson/The New York Times)

Three weeks after lightning storms ignited [an early start](#) to California's wildfire season, a state official said history had been made this time around. From [The Los Angeles Times](#):

“That has definitely surpassed any of our large fire events,” said Daniel Berlant, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

According to [statistics](#) from Mr. Berlant’s agency, as many as 1,781 fires were burning at one point earlier in the battle; nearly 300 of them remain unquenched. In all, 861,385 acres were scorched by them, mostly in the northern part of the state. ([A map shows where](#)).

Because this year’s fires were mainly in sparsely populated rural areas, the biggest fire season has by no means been the most destructive, at least so far. Last year’s wildfires in southern California prompted the “[largest evacuation in California’s history](#)” and [destroyed at least 1,800 homes](#).

By contrast, this year’s batch has mostly torn through forests, claiming only about 100 homes and prompting evacuation orders on a much smaller scale. Still, several populated areas did come under threat, including Big Sur, the [mostly high-end tourist destination](#) on the central coast. It was cleared in [early July](#) after a stubborn fire intensified.

By the time people were allowed to return [a few days later](#), an evacuation in another area was steeped in symbolism: “[Paradise evacuated as fire nears](#).” That fire, as it happens, was spotted by an unmanned drone aircraft from NASA that was helping in the fire battle. On Monday, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger praised the high-tech gadget as “[a superstar](#).”

The people of Paradise were allowed to return home on Monday when officials said that the three most significant fires threatening life, property and natural resources there were [almost fully contained](#). “We now have [light at the end of the tunnel](#),” Mr. Berlant said.

But he was also wary of the future, because the wildfire season still has months left to run. “Historically, we see the most devastating fires in September and October,” he said. “As we go on this summer, things will only get drier.”

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to douse flames.

"We are very short on aircraft," Whitcome said, although adding a heavy smoke inversion often makes that a moot point. "The smoke has limited our aircraft operation to almost nothing."

Heavy smoke socked in the Klamath River canyon from at least a dozen miles upstream of Happy Camp down to Orleans on Monday.

"We are spread very, very thin," Whitcome said. "The priorities are in and around the foothills of the Sacramento Valley where there is a threat to homes."

However, he expects more resources to be sent north to the fires in the Klamath National Forest as the fires to the south are contained.

Down at the Ukonom complex fire base at Orleans, Tom Lavagnino, a retired Rogue River National Forest employee and veteran firefighter, said morning inversions have sorely limited visibility and created thick pockets of smoke.

"One issue we have is the choking smoke," he said, adding that the heavy smoke does cool the air. "You don't have the sun to cook the fuels. Of course, the negative side is you can't see the fire to map it and it grounds our aircraft. We fought tooth and nail to get the aircraft only to have them sitting when we have an inversion."

Like Whitcome, he rued the terrain in the area.

"This country redefines rugged," he said of the challenges facing hand crews.

On the Siskiyou complex, the plan is to burn out ahead of the fire, using the Klamath River as a fire line near Ti Bar, a site about two dozen miles south of Happy Camp, said complex spokeswoman Phyllis Swanson, who works for the National Park Service.

"What we are getting ready to do is prepare the lines on the southeast side to do a burn-out operation in the next day or so," she said, referring to a firefighting method in which areas between the fire and fire line are burned to rob the blaze of fuel.

Dillon Campground will be closed temporarily beginning today. There are no river closures, although the usually popular river floating area had few boaters on Monday because of the smoke.

Down on the Klamath River near Ti Bar, Felix Rivera of Berkeley and Les Allen of Erie, Pa., were hunting rocks along the Klamath River.

"I've been coming up here twenty to twenty-five years and this is the first time I've been here in these conditions," Rivera said. "I've got bad allergies. This smoke really bugs me."

The rock hounds should expect more smoke, officials said.

'The fire is surprising us'

Happy Camp area fires keep crews guessing as they struggle with wind shifts, heat and snakes

By [Paul Fattig](#)

Mail Tribune

July 15, 2008 6:00 AM

HAPPY CAMP, Calif. — With 34 years of fighting wildfires under his belt, Paul Whitcome weighed the challenges posed by the 36,100-acre Siskiyou complex fire on a scale of 1 to 10.

"Eleven," offered the deputy incident commander who works for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

With that, he listed the problems facing firefighters: triple-digit heat, steep terrain, poison oak, rattlesnakes and limited resources, to name a few.

"And the fire is surprising us," he said.

"It's burning far more aggressively early on. The energy-release components — a measure of how hot fires burn — is showing levels that are typically a month later in the summer. It's like mid- to late August out there," he added. "There is a lot of torching and crowning in the trees. And it's throwing long-range spot fires up to a mile ahead of the main fire."

Smoke from the Siskiyou complex and the neighboring 18,500-acre Ukonom complex fires is pouring into the valleys of southwestern Oregon.

Both fires were ignited by dry lightning storms that peppered Northern California in mid-June.

The northern tip of the Siskiyou complex is about a dozen miles southwest of Happy Camp on the west side of the Klamath River, while the northern end of the Ukonom complex is on the east side roughly two dozen miles south of that community and east of the river.

One firefighter, noting the Siskiyou complex is heading south while the Ukonom complex is burning northward, quipped, "The firefighters from each fire could just change camps."

There are about 580 workers and two helicopters assigned to the Siskiyou complex. The Ukonom complex currently has 545 people and three helicopters. However, both fires only have one "heavy" helicopter capable of 1,000-gallon buckets of water from the river

"The only event I can recall of this scale was in 1987," Whitcome said, referring to the summer that brought the nearly 100,000-acre Silver fire to southwestern Oregon and big fires to Northern California.

"Those fires started in late August," he said. "You were on the downhill side of the fire season headed to the wetter period and cooler temperatures.

"This event started close to the beginning of fire season," he added. "We are going into the peak of fire season. Fuels are going to get drier. Temperatures are getting hotter. We have a lot of burning ahead of us."

Officials are hoping to contain the Siskiyou complex by mid-August but they acknowledge that's a tall order.

"It's doable if we get the resources we need and the weather stays in our favor," Whitcome said. "Right now, the winds have slackened off a bit so we can conduct some burn-outs. That's the only way we can attack the fire safely is to drop back away from the head of the fire and build fire lines in a safe, more accessible place for us.

"Some of these fires will burn to the end of the season," he added. "Typically, in this country that's about mid-October when we get enough precipitation to put the fire out."

The story is the same for the Ukonom complex, Lavagnino said.

"Our strategy is to challenge the fire in civilized areas," he said. "But once it gets into the higher elevations where it's greener, we hope it will put itself out. But we'll probably need a season-ending event. It'll likely be Mother Nature putting this one out."

Reach reporter Paul Fattig at 776-4496 or e-mail him at pfattig@mailtribune.com.

Wind shift brings smoke back into the Rogue Valley

A shift in winds sent smoke from the wildfires near Happy Camp, Calif., into the Rogue Valley on Monday afternoon, and chances are it could be back again today.

Monday morning's sounding of a weather balloon showed mainly winds out of the northwest, but the afternoon sounding showed a shift to winds from the southwest, according to the National Weather Service.

"That shift is what pulled the smoke in," weather service meteorologist Megan Woodhead said.

Winds are forecast today to develop more from a westerly position, but whether that will pull more smoke into the valley was not known Monday, Woodhead said.



News Archives

President Bush Arrives Today – Peter Chu’s Mandarin Cuisine is Ready

Thu, 07/17/2008 - 12:30

In just a few hours Air Force One will be landing in Redding. While the President’s visit is creating excitement, it is also creating huge security risks for Redding Law Enforcement and that is bad news for those hoping to get a glimpse. Airport officials and police say it is going to be hard for people to get a good look at the President. People started gearing up yesterday visitors came to the Redding Airport to get a glimpse of the helicopters and planes housed there. They will not get the same type of treat today. An arrival of a President means much more security, and a lot less access. However, one place at the Redding Airport may give a select few, the opportunity they are looking for,

Peter Chu’s Mandarin Cuisine is located inside the airport. You will have to show up early and bring your appetite because the Restaurant does not take reservations. Yesterday all was calm, but today this restaurant should be packed with people eager to see President Bush. We had a chance to speak with Michael Chu yesterday, son of Peter Chu, who told us this is a special opportunity for his Family's restaurant.

Today, July 17, 2008

Thu, 07/17/2008 - 10:43



Red Cross Does Not Solicit Over the Phone

Thu, 07/17/2008 - 10:41

Red Cross Officials are putting out a message, "Call us, we won't call you."

Some people received phone calls asking for donations to the Red Cross, however the Red Cross *never* solicits for donations over the phone.

If you have any questions or would like to donate, you can call the Shasta chapter of the Red Cross at 244-8000. Representatives of the Red Cross report that, because fire season has started so rearily, their budget is already stretching thin.

go to www.redcross.org (<http://www.redcross.org>)

Concow Fire Victim Identified

Thu, 07/17/2008 - 10:39

We now know the identity of the man killed in the fire burning near concow in Butte County. Sheriff Officials now need help in tracking down his family.

The victim is 61-year-old Van Scott West. West's body was found last week in his burned out home near Hog Ranch Road and High Winds Road. The Coroner's office used dental records to ID Mr. West, the problem now is authorities have been unable to find his family.

Anyone who may know how to contact Mr. West's family is asked to call the Butte County Coroner's office at 530-538-7404.

Humboldt Fire was Arson

Thu, 07/17/2008 - 10:37

The Humboldt Fire ripped through Paradise just over a month ago now Cal Fire says it was arson. The activities surrounding the fire are still under investigation but Cal Fire says the arsonist destroyed 87 homes and caused about 34 million dollars in damages.

Cal fire investigators are looking for a 2002 to 2007 full size white panel Ford van with no logos or a maroon Nissan pick up truck.

Junction City Patiently Waiting

Thu, 07/17/2008 - 10:36

The stubborn Eagle Fire near Junction City is far from out. Firefighters are planning a burnout to stop the blaze in its tracks, but they have to wait until enough resources are available. People who live in the area say they feel like they are low on the totem pole.

Richard Starr rents cabins just west of Junction City. He says fire crews are hard to come by in rural areas like this, "We're always last on the list. That's what we're used to. It's Trinity County."

Cal-Fire's Frank Mosbacher, managing the Iron Complex Fires says they are right, "In some cases, it's because of the prioritization of resources and where you want to place your limited resources."

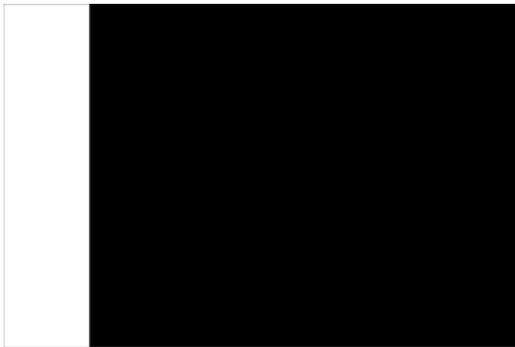
Frank Mosbacher worked on the Lime Complex before being assigned to these fires. He says it is a careful balancing act of resources, "On the Lime Complex, for example, we were able to get a higher priority because of the number of evacuations going on, and we've been making good progress on those and that was somewhat at the expense of the Iron Complex. It's a trade-off."

A trade-off Richard Starr dislikes, but accepts. He says firefighters are doing the best they can, given the available resources, "Firefighters stayed here with water tenders and fought the fire and won for us, so far for pretty much everybody in this valley. We're very grateful for them and what they've done here."

To date no houses or lives have been lost in the Iron Complex. Firefighters are taking it one step or fire at a time, and so far that seems to be working.

Global Warming - Good for Mt. Shasta?

Thu, 07/17/2008 - 10:29



With global warming causing the retreat of glaciers in the Sierra Nevada, the Rocky Mountains and elsewhere in the Cascades, one volcanic mountain in Northern California is actually benefiting from changing weather patterns over the Pacific Ocean.

Reaching more than 14,000 feet above sea level, Mt. Shasta's seven glaciers, referred to by American Indians as the footsteps made by the creator when he descended to earth, are the only historical glaciers in the continental U.S. known to be growing.

Scientists say a warming Pacific Ocean means more moist air sweeping over far Northern California. Because of Shasta's location and elevation, the precipitation is falling as snow, adding to the mass of the Mountain's glaciers.

Glacier ice is the largest reservoir of fresh water on Earth, and second only to oceans as the largest reservoir of total water. Glaciers cover vast areas of Polar Regions but are restricted to the highest mountains.

Humboldt Fire Deemed Arson

Wed, 07/16/2008 - 17:01

The Humboldt Fire ripped through Paradise just over a month ago, and on Wednesday, CalFire says it was arson. The activities surrounding the fire are still under investigation, but CalFire says the arsonist destroyed 87 homes and caused about \$34 million in damages. CalFire investigators are looking for a 2002 to 2007 full size, white panel Ford van with no logos, or a maroon Nissan pick-up truck. Call CalFire at 521-8104 if you have any information that could lead to the arsonist arrest. There is a reward up to \$10,000 for any info leading to the arrest.

Volunteers to Be Honored

Wed, 07/16/2008 - 16:47

Wildfires are not the only thing on the President's mind when he visits the area on Thursday. Part of one of the largest national service projects ever is going on in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest this week. The project, called Arrowcorps, will restore about 150 miles of trail along the Pacific Crest Trail. It is being headed up by the Boy Scouts and the Forest Service. The President will be handing volunteer service awards to three eagle scouts who are playing a vital role the project. About 800 scouts from 33 states as well as the Philippines and Japan are involved in this project. The presentation includes the 650th volunteer the President has honored since 2002, when he created the USA Freedom Corps Program to encourage volunteerism.

President Coming to Redding

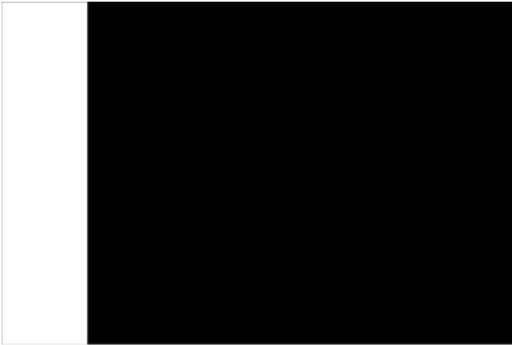
Wed, 07/16/2008 - 16:45

As expected, a lot of people are hoping to get a peek of the President. But chances of getting a glimpse of him in person are slim at best. One place at the Redding Airport, however, may give a select few the opportunity they are looking for. But it will be first come first served. Peter Chu's Mandarin Cuisine, located inside the airport, does not take reservations. So if you are looking to get a peek of the President, show up early and bring your appetite. The

restaurant should be packed with people eager to see President Bush. We had a chance to speak with Michael Chu, son of Peter Chu, who told us this is a special opportunity for his family's restaurant. When we asked Michael if the restaurant had a plan of action for Thursday, he said they are working on it. On a side note, if President Bush happens to get a sudden craving for Chinese food, Michael told us he would be happy to feed him, on the house of course.

Big Attention for Redding's Parkview Cottages

Wed, 07/16/2008 - 10:16



Those new small cottage style homes in Redding's Parkview neighborhood are getting some big time attention.

The project of quaint homes has been honored as one of the Nation's Top Ten Cottage Neighborhoods by Cottage Living Magazine. The magazine's top ten were chosen from cities nationwide ranked in three categories, the homes themselves, the people who live there and innovative ideas.

Parkview broke the top five, coming in at number four.

City Officials say the honor to the new development is nice, but it is not just that one corner the entire neighborhood is seeing a turn-around.

Feather River Hospital Reopens Friday

Wed, 07/16/2008 - 10:11

The Feather River Hospital in Paradise is scheduled to reopen its doors Friday.

The hospital was placed under an immediate threat evacuation and forced to close its' doors for about a week and a half. Patients were sent to Enloe Medical Center and Oroville Hospital during the evacuations.

Feather River Hospital staff also returned to work this week, they are helping to make sure the hospital is fully functioning as soon as possible.

Concow Prepares for Recovery

Wed, 07/16/2008 - 10:10

Time to start the rebuilding process in Concow and Butte County Officials want to help every step of the way.

Butte County and Cal Fire called a community meeting at Concow School yesterday to help those displaced with resources they will need in the Camp Fire's aftermath. PG&E, AT&T, the American Red Cross and several Butte County supervisors were in attendance to provide information.

Butte County officials say right now the main priority is getting people back on their feet and answering all of their questions.

Medi-Cal Victory

Wed, 07/16/2008 - 10:09

It is a major victory for Medi-Cal. Both the House and the Senate voted to pass a bill protecting the Health Program. Earlier yesterday, President Bush vetoed the bill that protects doctors from losing over ten percent of Medicare reimbursement. Both houses of Congress wasted no time in securing the two thirds vote needed to override the President's veto.

Tight Financial Times

Wed, 07/16/2008 - 10:08

No one will be surprised by that revelation that these are tight financial times.

A new ABC survey says that 78% of Americans believe the economy is getting worse. Food and gas prices are going up and the Labor Department has just confirmed that inflation is at its highest level since 1981. President Bush is urging confidence in the long term foundation of our economy.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke says lawmakers face significant challenges in fixing the struggling economy. Financial experts urge patience and caution.

Remembering President Kennedy

Wed, 07/16/2008 - 10:06

President Bush will be the third sitting president to visit the Redding area. Harry Truman made a "whistle stop" on a train in 1948 and then John F. Kennedy came in 1963 to dedicated Whiskeytown Dam. Redding's Bob Anderson was there as the master of ceremonies before President Kennedy arrived.

Mike Magnus talked to Anderson about the presidential visit. Anchor Mike Magnus tells us Anderson says it was an unforgettable experience. He has a scrapbook from JFK's visit.

The president landed at the Redding Airport the day before the dedication and took a helicopter to Lassen Park where he spent the night, then flew to Whiskeytown.

Anderson had this to say, "People have said they can just experience the excitement of a crowd, and you could just feel it. There was something about President Kennedy that was just so dynamic. I think a lot of the world leaders are like that, and when they walk on the stage, there's just a feeling of excitement and electricity in the air."

Even more significant when we remember this was September 28th, 1963 less than two months before president Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.

As Bob met with the secret service before the dedication the men told him something he would never forget. Bob said, "I wondered if it was difficult to protect him, out in a mountain area like that, and they said, "No, we put the Sheriff's deputies on all the hilltops, and it's pretty easy. They said what we really worry about is in a downtown metro area with high rise, and as we all know, that's where it happened about 2 months later."

Bob was president of the chamber of commerce at the time. He got to present a specially minted gold coin to the president and he had a secret, he was perhaps the only republican in the crowd.

Bob added, "It was interesting working with the men that he had on site early, and we'd joke back and forth. They were sure they were going to convert me over to democrat, but it never happened, Mike (laugh)."



Four Men Injured in Motion Fire

Wed, 07/16/2008 - 10:03

A surprise on the fire lines of the Motion Fire near Whiskeytown Lake four Spanish speaking men called for help after being burned. Three men had to get medical treatment another is being detained for being in a closed area. The call for help came in around 4:45PM, Tuesday afternoon. It came from the Whiskey Creek area where the fire is actively burning. Fire officials tell us at least one of the men had serious burns he was airlifted to the hospital. His condition is not being released. Officials tell us the men had camouflage on and may have been tending to a marijuana grow. The area is popular for the illegal gardens. Whiskey Town Park Rangers and the Shasta County Sheriff's Office are investigating.

45 Years Since a US President Visited Redding

Wed, 07/16/2008 - 10:00

It has been 45 years since a u-s- president visited Redding. All that is about to change. President George Bush is planned to arrive at the Redding Airport Thursday afternoon. The President will survey damage caused by Northstate wildfires. We are getting reports that Governor Schwarzenegger might be at his side. A lot of planning is involved. Presidential Advance Teams, as well as equipment, to support the President's expected visit, started arriving at the airport Saturday. More equipment including helicopters and personnel arrived today on a C-17 cargo plane. The Redding Airport says President John F. Kennedy visited Redding back in 1963 for the dedication of Whiskey Town Dam.



Catalytic Converter Thefts

Wed, 07/16/2008 - 09:48

Redding police reported at least eight different thefts involving cars last week, but it is not the cars themselves being taken. The thief or thieves are taking a very expensive piece of metal from under the cars. Eight catalytic converters were taken from Toyota Pick-ups or SUVs in a two day stretch last week. Mechanics say thieves crawl under the car and cut off the converter. Police believe they are taking the parts to trade in for cash.

This "epidemic" has been sweeping the entire country starting late 2007, Toyota's being one of the prime targets. The best thing to do? Park your Toyota in the garage if you can.

Movies 10 Fire

Wed, 07/16/2008 - 09:44

A fire behind the popular Redding movie theatre, Movies 10, had spectators calling for help, and one homeowner frantically speeding home from work. A fireball went up in the walkway just behind the Movies 10 parking lot. One homeowner said it came close to her house, lighting her umbrella on fire and burning holes in her lawn chairs.

Investigators are still searching for the cause, but witnesses say two kids were seen running from the scene.

Identity Not Yet Released in Fire Fatality

Tue, 07/15/2008 - 16:50

No word has come out yet on the identity of the man found dead in Concow after the Camp Fire ripped through the area. The unidentified man was found at his home on High Winds Road last Friday. The Butte County Sheriff's Department is not releasing his address or any information that would identify him before his family is contacted. But people in Concow tell News Channel 7 that the man was between 58-60 years old. He has lived in Concow for about 30 years and was stuck at home by himself when the Camp Fire overcame his home. Butte County officials hope to identify him using dental records over the next few days.

Cars Targeted for Metal Thefts

Tue, 07/15/2008 - 16:49

Redding Police reported at least 8 different thefts involving cars last week. But it is not the cars themselves being taken; it is an expensive piece of metal under them. 8 catalytic converters were taken from Toyota pick-ups or SUV's in a two day stretch last week. Mechanics say thieves crawl under the cars and cut off the converters, taking them to trade in for cash. In Redding, to trade a catalytic converter for cash you better be ready to show id. North Valley Recycling buys converters, but says sellers need to show identification. They also video tape the exchanges and keep records on computers.

Red Cross Opens Shelter

Tue, 07/15/2008 - 16:47

The American Red Cross opened its Disaster Relief Center at the Nazarene Church in Oroville on Tuesday. The center is helping displaced Concow homeowners with items they lost in the fire. Each family will receive a debit card with money on it to help purchase food and clothing. Red Cross officials will also help residents find housing in the future, but in the meantime the Red Cross shelters will stay open until residents can get back on their feet. The American Red Cross is accepting cash donations only; they do not have the facilities to accept food and clothing right now. If you would like to help out, call the American Red Cross: Three Rivers Chapter at 673-1460.

Shasta County Firefighters Save Homes, Despite Many Acres Burning

Tue, 07/15/2008 - 16:45

The recent wildfires have brought a lot of devastation all across the Northstate. But fire crews in Shasta County say there is something extraordinary that comes from this-no homes were destroyed. Here are the latest numbers: about 90,000 acres have burned so far in Shasta County. 3 structures were destroyed, along with seven out buildings. That includes a few hunting cabins. But every home was saved. When asked what the firefighters' plan of attack was when it came to saving people's homes, they said they simply drove around areas where the fire was heading, and put trucks in front of houses they found. When they did not have time to plan ahead, they relied on local support to tell them where homes were located. Firefighters say do not give them all the credit; homeowners with defensible space made a huge impact on saving their own homes. One challenge firefighters did come across was that there were several crews not from this area. So getting around was a difficult task.

100% Containment on the Whiskeytown Fire

Tue, 07/15/2008 - 16:23

A little more than 3 weeks after a lightening storm swept through northern California, igniting 7 wildfires in the recreation area, the National Park Service announces that the Whiskeytown Complex Fires are contained.

For those hoping to make their way through 299 West, however, you'll have to wait; the Motion and Moon Fires are still converging on the area and Highway 299 W. will be closed as needed due to wildfire activities.

Due to burn-out activities the Motion Fire evacuations remain in place for park buildings and residences along Whiskey Creek and Grizzly Gulch Roads.

The logo for KRCR-TV, featuring the call letters in a bold, white, sans-serif font against a blue background.

Site © California Broadcasting, Inc., 2008



News Archives

Smoke Creates a False Fall for Native Oaks

Mon, 07/21/2008 - 16:38

Raking leaves is supposed to happen in October, not the middle of July. Thankfully the smoke is clearing, so the skies are no longer gray, but a lot of leaves are brown especially on the native oak trees. The cause is called "senescence". Why are the trees doing this now when they should be in mid-summer form? With the thick smoke conditions, mature oak trees are supposed to do this. Put down that chain saw! Oak trees have been around here a lot longer than we have. They are in survival mode. When the trees start to go brown, do not water them. It will not do any good and in fact could harm the trees by causing the roots to rot.

Monday Morning Fire Update

Mon, 07/21/2008 - 09:07

Conditions in Shasta County were look better Monday morning. Cal Fire Officials say firefighters have gotten 90 percent of the Motion fire contained. Full containment could come as early as tonight. All evacuations have been lifted except for the mandatory evacuation for Whiskey Creek Road. Over the weekend hundreds of firefighters have left the area for either some much need time off or to be reassigned to other fires in the state.

The Moon Fire is now fully contained. All evacuations and road closures in the area have been lifted. Full containment on all the fires burning in Shasta County is expected by this Friday.

In Trinity County, fire the Iron and Lime complex fires are still actively burning. The Iron Complex is creeping closer to Junction City and Highway 299 from the west, and the Lime Complex is still burning near Hyampom. Cal Fire tells us one small cabin was destroyed early Monday morning. An evacuation advisory was lifted in Denny and Fisher Road, and a voluntary evacuation was lifted in Trinity Village. All the mandatory evacuations are still in place for Cooper's Bar, Red Hill Road, Dutch Creek Road, Evan's Bar and Soldier Creek. Mandatory evacuations are also still in place for Cedar Flat, Friedrich Road, Corral Bottom Ranch, and Hagland Ranch. In Hyampom, Mandatory evacuations are still in place for Manzanita Ranch Road to west of the South Fork of the Trinity River.

The Upside of Fire Torn Land

Sun, 07/20/2008 - 22:33

Every day ... we continue to loose thousands of acres to the north state fires.

We wanted to find out how badly the fire has affected local eco-systems.

So we sent KRCR news Channel 7's Misa Maryuama into the woods for some answers.

We found the fire is not only disastrous for people, it can also spell the end for natural beauty across the North State.

If you sterilize the soil ... then you wipe out all life.

But a slow, low temperature burn is necessary to keep plant life healthy.

It needs to be hot enough to thin out thick forests ... allowing plants to get the nutrients and sunshine they need.

Most of Whiskeytown complex was a moderately low intensity burn.

Park officials would have eventually thinned out the area with chainsaws.

Instead the fire did it for them. Officials say some areas were hotter than others, where they'll have to do more

stabilization and restoration.

They'll also repair bulldozer lines. The cleared areas they say ... Means more erosion, and in some areas, it may just be

they'll have to close some parts of the park when early rainstorms hit, to keep visitors safe, prevent injuries or accidents related to debris flows.

Officials say the bulldozers lines may take more time to repair ... but it's a small price to pay to keep communities safe.

Trinity County Evacuation Updates

Sun, 07/20/2008 - 09:42

According to the Trinity County Sheriff's Department, mandatory evacuation status remains in effect for portions of Junction City: Coopers Bar Estates, Red Hill Road, Dutch Creek Road, Evans Bar and Soldier Creek.

Residents are asked to leave through Dutch Creek Road and out to Highway 299.

Other areas under mandatory evacuation status are: Cedar Flat, Friedrich Road, Corral Bottom Ranch, Haglund Ranch, and the area starting at Manzanita Ranch Road to west of the South Fork of the Trinity River to Big Slide Campground west to the county line and north back up to Manzanita Ranch Road. Voluntary evacuation status remains in place for Swede Creek/Mountain Subdivision and Trinity Village.

Evacuation advisories remain in place for the residents of Del Loma, Hawkins Bar, Denny, and Fisher Road from "The Colony" up to the end of the road.

Junction City Evacuations

Sat, 07/19/2008 - 10:45

Fire crews will continue removing potential fire fuel along the east flank of the Eagle Fire today, said fire officials in Trinity County. Burnout operations west of Junction City were successful last night, according to the area command information team, but evacuation orders are still in effect.

According to the Trinity County Sheriff's Department, **mandatory evacuation status** remains in effect for Coopers Bar Estates, Red Hill Road, Dutch Creek Road, Evans Bar and Soldier Creek.

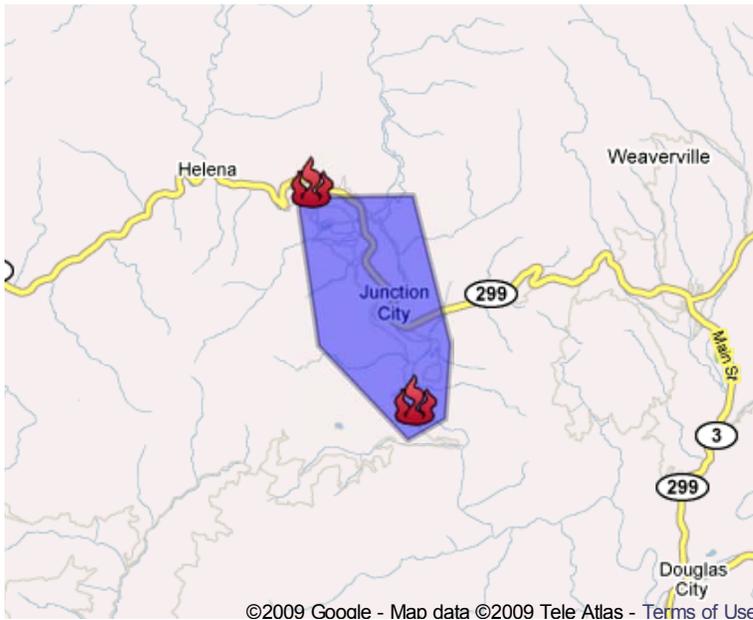
Residents are asked to leave through Dutch Creek Road and out to Highway 299.

The remainder of the Junction City area is now under voluntary evacuation status.

Other areas under mandatory evacuation status are: Cedar Flat, Friedrich Road, Corral Bottom Ranch, Haglund Ranch, and the area starting at Manzanita Ranch Road to west of the South Fork of the Trinity River to Big Slide Campground west to the county line and north back up to Manzanita Ranch Road.

Voluntary evacuation status remains in place for Swede Creek/Mountain Subdivision and Trinity Village. Evacuation advisories remain in place for the residents of Del Loma, Hawkins Bar, Denny, and Fisher Road from "The Colony" up to the end of the road.

Based on limited information and familiarity with the area, this map represents the approximate locations of the affected areas.



[View Larger Map \(http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=115463017780611512345.00045263edf0a5ee1e5f2&ll=40.728007,-123.057861&spn=0.182123,0.291824&z=11&source=embed\)](http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=115463017780611512345.00045263edf0a5ee1e5f2&ll=40.728007,-123.057861&spn=0.182123,0.291824&z=11&source=embed)

Man Hunt on Oasis Road for Heroin Suspect

Fri, 07/18/2008 - 17:20

A massive search continues tonight for the man at the center of one of the biggest heroin busts in Shasta County history. It started just before 10:00am this morning near the northbound Oasis Road exit on I-5 between Redding and the City of Shasta Lake when Police found hidden inside the bumper of the suspect's car 18 pounds of heroine, estimated to be worth close to three-million dollars!

Now, deputies have to find the suspect and to do that, they have warned people living near Oasis Road to keep an eye out. They say he is a 22-years-old, Hispanic about 5 feet - 6 inches tall, wearing jeans and a brown shirt, and has longer hair. He also has earrings and an eyebrow ring. If you see him call 9-1-1. The man is believed to be desperate and dangerous.

Officials Still Search for Arsonists

Fri, 07/18/2008 - 16:44

Fire officials are still looking for whoever started the 23,000 acre Humboldt Fire. They say someone intentionally set the fire that destroyed 87 homes in Butte County last month. They now need the public's help to track them down. It cost more than \$10 million to put it out. There are two vehicles that may have been in the area of Humboldt Road when the fire broke out, of which investigators are trying to track down. Investigators want to know if these two vehicles are known to frequent the area. They are a 2002-2007 white full-size van with no markings or logos, with a roof rack. They are also looking for a maroon Nissan "hard-body" pick-up truck. Call investigators at 521-8104 if you can help them. There is a \$10,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction.

President Briefed on Healthy Forest Initiative

Fri, 07/18/2008 - 16:42

Fires continue to burn across the Northstate, but long before they began, steps were being taken to minimize their effects. In August of 2002, President Bush launched the Healthy Forest Initiative to protect communities, private property and natural resources from wildfires. During his visit to Redding on Thursday, he had a chance to meet with Forest Service officials to observe the project first-hand. He was briefed on how the project helped with some of the wild fires as they flew over the area. According to officials, when the fires burned in the areas where the work had been done, they basically stopped. Forest Service projects, in accordance with the Healthy Forest Initiative, include

forest thinning, prescribed burning and timber salvage sales. Vegetation, fire history and proximity to communities all play a part in where they perform these projects.

Feather River Hospital Reopens

Fri, 07/18/2008 - 16:39

Some signs of progress on the fires in Butte County; Feather River Hospital in Paradise has re-opened. The doors opened on Friday, 10 days after it was forced to close because of it being seriously threatened by the Camp Fire. The hospital had to pass inspections before it could reopen. Spokeswoman Maureen Wisener says it will take time for the 101-bed hospital to get back to its normal patient population of about 60 patients.

Largest Heroin Bust in Shasta County History; Suspect on the Loose

Fri, 07/18/2008 - 16:38

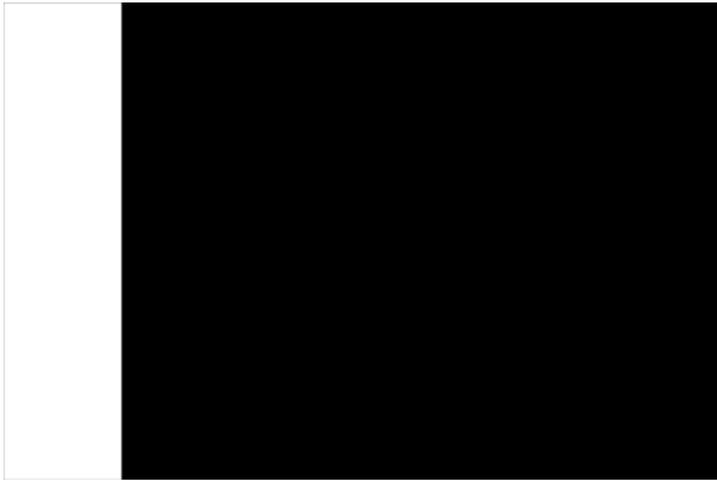
A massive search continues for the man at the center of one of the biggest heroine busts in Shasta County history. It all started Friday morning just before 10 near the Oasis exit on I-5 north. Sheriff's deputies pulled over a car they saw driving erratically. Once a K-9 started sniffing the vehicle, the suspect took off running. The dog found about \$3 million worth of black tar heroin hidden in the bumper. Deputies are warning people living near Oasis Road to lock their doors and keep their eyes peeled. Deputies are worried because in their eyes, the suspect will pretty much do anything to get away. That could mean stealing someone's car or something worse. Deputies are out in the area, searching for the 22-year-old man. They have used helicopters, more deputies, and of course, their trusted canine companion. The Sheriff's Office sent out a reverse 9-1-1 call to some people in the area, telling them to keep an eye out for the suspect. They say he is a 22-years-old Hispanic male. He is about 5'6" tall, wearing jeans and a brown shirt, and has longer hair. He also has earrings and an eyebrow ring. If you see him, call 9-1-1 immediately.

Top Stories 7-18-08

Fri, 07/18/2008 - 15:07



Fri, 07/18/2008 - 11:03



Smokey Bear

Fri, 07/18/2008 - 10:49



The Fire Command Center in Anderson had an unusual patient brought into the infirmary. A Forester working in the area of the Moon Fire spotted a brown bear cub and noticed it was in pretty rough shape. The bear who's mother was nowhere in sight was captured and transported to Anderson. Officials say it had third degree burns to its paws.

Tomatoes Declared "Safe"

Fri, 07/18/2008 - 10:46

It is finally safe to eat tomatoes again. The FDA is lifting its warning about tomatoes, but is still warning people to stay away from raw jalapeno and Serrano peppers. The source of the salmonella outbreak is still unknown. The FDA says the epidemic is "waning."

Hollywood May Be Going on Strike Again

Fri, 07/18/2008 - 10:45

For the second year in a row, Hollywood may be going on strike, this time it is the Actors that are walking out.

The Screen Actors Guild's contract is up and they have rejected Film and TV Producers' final offer. The Actors Union is fighting for residual fees for emerging media such as I-tunes, TV on Demand and programming for Smart Phones.

SAG Director Doug Allan also said that the producers offer would allow non-union actors into film and television. As the prospect of a second strike looms, Hollywood looks for a quick solution.

According to a recent article by the Los Angeles Times, "Fallout from the Hollywood writers strike (which ended in February of this year) will cost California's already struggling economy an estimated \$2.1 billion."

Murder Suspect Caught in Downtown Redding

Fri, 07/18/2008 - 10:24

Some very tense moments in downtown Redding Thursday night as police searched for a possible murder suspect. Redding police got a call from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department advising them that a man wanted in connection with a homicide may have been staying at the Redding Inn. Redding Police Department's Swat Team was called out.

The suspect, Teyseer Najdawi, was taken into custody without incident. The investigation has been turned over to the Millbrae Police Department.

Fire and Evacuation Updates

Fri, 07/18/2008 - 10:23

The Trinity County Sheriff's Department is now warning people in Junction City of **new mandatory evacuations** for Coopers Bar Estates, Red Hill Road, Dutch Creek Road, Evans Bar and Soldier Creek.

Mandatory evacuations continue for Cedar Flat, Friedrich Road, Corral Bottom Ranch, Haglund Ranch, and Manzanita Ranch Road to west of the south fork of the Trinity River.

Voluntary evacuations are still in place for Swede Creek and Trinity Village plus evacuation advisories for Del Loma, Hawkins Bar, Denny, and Fisher Road.

An evacuation shelter has been opened at the Weaverville Elementary School on Highway 3.

All of Whiskeytown lake and shoreline, except for the Whiskey Creek arm will be open.

Many areas north of Highway 299 will still be closed, people can check with the Whiskeytown Lake Visitors Center for more information.

More portions of the Whiskeytown Recreation Area are expected to open today as activity on the Motion Fire starts to calm down.

In Shasta County a total of more than 82,000 acres have burned. Firefighters are making significant progress on the Motion Fire west of Redding allowing officials to remove the evacuations on Rock Creek Road between Benson and Iron Mountain Road including Benson Drive. Evacuation orders have been lifted on south fork of Lookout Road as well. The only mandatory evacuation is on Whiskey Creek Road. Iron Mountain Road north of rock creek is under an advisory evacuation. The Motion Fire is 55% contained.

The Moon Fire in the Igo, Ono area is still not contained, but it is close. Right now the Moon Fire is at 95% containment. There has been no real change from yesterday as fire crews focus their attention on construction lines on the western end. There are no evacuations or road closures for the Moon Fire.

Fire conditions in Butte County continue to get better and better. Highway 70 is now open to traffic without restrictions. Fire crews are currently working on the northwest side of the Complex.

The Camp and Belden Fires are holding while firefighters watch for flare ups in the area. The Complex is currently at 85% containment.

Full containment on all of the fires burning in Shasta County is expected next Friday, July 25th.

Mandatory Evacuations

Thu, 07/17/2008 - 16:52

The Trinity County Sheriff's Department just issued mandatory evacuations in Junction City for the following areas: Coppers Bar Estates, Red Hill Road, Dutch Creek Road, Evans Bar and Soldier Creek, due to the Eagle Fire.

Residents are being asked to leave through Dutch Creek Road and out to Highway 299.

The Red Cross Shelter is open in Weaverville at the Weaverville Elementary School on Highway 3 North. People needing shelter for their animals can go to the Trinity Animal Shelter at 563 Mtn View in Weaverville, CA.

Red Cross has opened an Evacuation Shelter

Thu, 07/17/2008 - 16:12

The Red Cross has opened an Evacuation Shelter at the Weaverville Elementary School on Highway 3 North in Weaverville. Anyone needing help evacuating large animals can call the Trinity County Animal Shelter at 530-623-1370 until 4:00 p.m. and after hours they can call the Trinity County Sheriff's Department at 530-623-8126.

Fire Crew Pictures

Thu, 07/17/2008 - 15:54

A member of a fire crew working at Keswick Dam took these pictures of one of the helicopters working on the Motion and Moon fires.



Photos courtesy of Jake Guthrie

Fire Retrospective

Thu, 07/17/2008 - 15:06

We've had many local fire officials and supportive community members call and request a copy of this video. Special thanks to Dave Magee and our dedicated staff - and especially our hardworking fire crews.

This has been an overwhelming situation, one of the worst California Fire Seasons in history and everyone has been doing their best to preserve public safety and keep the community informed.



Governor and President Briefed

Thu, 07/17/2008 - 14:59

Gov. Schwarzenegger and President Bush Discuss Coordinated Federal and State Response to California's Wildfires

Today, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger joined President George W. Bush in Redding to receive a briefing on the state's wildfires from state and local officials and to survey fire damage during an aerial tour of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. During the visit, the Governor and President discussed the effective coordination of resources between California's local, state and federal partners during this wildfire siege, which at its peak included more than 2,000 fires and has scorched more than 887,000 acres to date.

"The cooperation during these unprecedented wildfires has been fantastic, and I appreciate the federal support and resources we have received," Governor Schwarzenegger said. "Thanks to this great coordination, we have been able to obtain and utilize resources from the federal government, 40 states and a number of international partners. We face more challenges in the hot and dry summer months ahead"as we help people put their lives back together and stay prepared for inevitable future fires"and I look forward to the President continuing to be our partner in this effort."

Since the Governor asked the President for additional equipment and personnel on July 9, numerous federal resources have been provided, including:

- 301 fire trucks
- 12 fixed-wing aircraft
- 50 helicopters
- More than 3,500 personnel
- NASA drone

In addition, FEMA is reimbursing the state \$31 million in public assistance funding to CAL FIRE for some of the costs incurred to fight the ongoing California wildfires. FEMA will reimburse 75 percent of firefighting costs with the remaining 25 percent coming from the state.

Over the last two months, the Governor has declared a state of emergency in the following 12 counties due to wildfires: Butte, Inyo, Kern, Mariposa, Mendocino, Monterey, Plumas, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta and Trinity.

Three Eagle Scouts Receiving Awards from President Bush

Thu, 07/17/2008 - 13:19

Three Eagle Scouts will be honored with awards as part of the USA Freedom Corps Program created by the President to encouraging more people to volunteer.

The three are responsible for organizing one of the largest national service projects ever. The three Eagle Scouts were able to bring together over 800 scouts from 33 different states as well as Japan and the Philippines to volunteer there time to help restore about 150 miles of trail on and the Pacific Crest Trail.

One Scout has said they did not just do it to get an award, "Probably the most rewarding part has been getting out there and just working along next to all these Scouts who have enthusiasm to be everyone around them."

and they hope their experience will inspire others, "I think that all the younger Scouts that where out working with and interacting with get to see that we've taken on an leadership role within the organization and really worked and out an effort into working this all happens and maybe they'll take on the same role late on, follow in our footsteps."

The anticipation of a moment with the President brings these comments from one Scout, "Its always been a dream of mine to sort of get to go to the White House and see how they run things but getting to me the President it just like unbelievable and definitely a story I'm gonna pass on for years, probably gonna be a Facebook picture."

Cal Trans Update

Thu, 07/17/2008 - 13:18

State Route 32 is currently closed for fire suppression activity, from the junction of State Route 36 in Tehama County, to Humboldt Road in Butte County.

State Route 70 is currently opened to one-way controlled traffic from 5 miles west of Pulga to 2 miles west of Pulga. Expect minor delays.

For more information, regarding highway closures due to fire, and to view an EOC closure map visit the web at www.caltrans2.info (<http://www.caltrans2.info>)

Precautionary Evacuations

Thu, 07/17/2008 - 13:05

Effective immediately (Thursday, July 17, 2008) the Trinity County Sheriff's Department is issuing voluntary evacuations for the following areas in Junction City: Coopers Bar Estates, Red Hill Road, Dutch Creek Road, Evans Bar and Soldier Creek, due to the Eagle Fire.

There will be a town meeting tonight, Thursday, July 17, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the Junction City Elementary School in Junction City in regards to today's fire activity and the Iron Complex.

KRCR-TV

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News Archives

Orland Shots

Thu, 07/24/2008 - 11:46

Close calls for one woman in Orland after shots were fired at her house.

It happened at a home on Plumas Street around 11:00PM. One bullet went through a window and nearly missed Deborah Geary as she was sitting at her computer. Police are investigating and on the lookout for a dark colored car. Anyone with information is being asked to contact authorities.

Thursday Morning Fire Update

Thu, 07/24/2008 - 09:59

TRINITY COUNTY FIRES

Crews continue to make progress on the Lime and Iron Complexes but the battle is far from over. As evacuations are lifted Wednesday night new evacuations are being announced. New Mandatory evacuations are in place for Hidden Valley Road near Highway 36 in the Lime Complex and Big Bar Road west of Skunk Creek for the Iron Complex. Mandatory evacuation orders also continue for Corral Bottom and Haglund Ranch. In Junction City, the Eagle Fire is causing mandatory evacuations in Coopers Bar Estates, Red Hill Road, Dutch Creek Road, Evens Bar and Soldier Creek. Fire crews have completed successful burnouts to the east of the Eagle fire helping to reduce the risk to Junction City.

Crews continued to make progress Wednesday night on the Eagle and Cedar Fires. Lighter winds and favorable conditions allowed crews to construct direct fire lines around the fire's edge in some areas. Containment lines on the north and east flanks of the Eagle fire remain secure, reducing the threat to Junction City. National Guard crews will focus Thursday on mopping up areas on the Ironside and Zeigler fires in order to make sure no hot spots remain. None of the fires within the complex showed much growth Wednesday.

BUTTE COUNTY FIRES

New information is out as crews continue to assess damage caused by fires. The number of homes found burned rose to 106, most of them in the community of Concow. The fire lines are looking pretty much the same as far as the active fires. The camp fire is the only fire still uncontained. It's still burning on the north end where fire crews are being air dropped due to steep terrain. They are building lines and mopping up the area. The Camp fire is 9% contained.

In order to help people that lost their homes, Butte County officials will hold a community meeting Thursday for fire victims. The meeting will be held at the Concow Grange on Big Bend Road at 7 PM. Representatives from county agencies will be there to help victims with the recovery. A local assistance center has also been set up in Oroville at the Oroville Municipal Auditorium on 1200 Myers Street. It will be open Thursday and Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM.

SHASTA COUNTY

There hasn't been much change on the fire lines of the Motion and Moon fires in Shasta County. Crews are still mopping up and looking for hot spots. There are no evacuations in Shasta County and the Whiskey Creek Arm and

boat ramp of the Whiskeytown Lake are now open. The motion fire is 95% contained and the Moon fire 100% contained.

Wind Energy Project Coming to Eastern Shasta County

Thu, 07/24/2008 - 09:13

You're going to have a chance to voice your opinions on a proposed wind energy project on the Hatchet Mountain in Eastern Shasta County. Hatchet Ridge Wide, LLC. wants to scatter the project over 3,000 acres. The site is about seven miles west of Burney. About 100 megawatts of electricity would be produced by the wind turbines. 42 to 68 of them would be built. The public meeting is Thursday night at 7 PM at Mountain View High School on Tamarack Ave. in Burney

Shasta County Man Sentenced for Killing His Baby Son

Thu, 07/24/2008 - 08:58

A Shasta County man who killed his baby boy is headed to prison. A judge sentenced 21 year-old Joshua Buck to 15 years to life Wednesday after Buck pleaded guilty to beating his five month son to death. He initially denied killing his son, but later admitted it. Cumberline Soukhaum, the baby's Great Aunt, read a letter in court explaining how much the death has hurt the family. She says a man like Buck should spend the rest of his life behind bars. Buck could be up for parole in 15 years. "After 15 years, I will be at that parole hearing, and I will contest it. I never want him to get out again. I never want him to have another child. " Souckhaum said Wednesday. Buck is not eligible for probation. The Judge also ordered him to pay \$3,000 in restitution to the family for the baby's funeral and other costs.

Drought in California

Thu, 07/24/2008 - 07:53

California is in the midst of a drought and farmers are asking for help. The Governor and Senator Dianne Feinstein hope their 10 billion dollar water plan will do the trick. The Governor's water plan is designed to give more water to the Golden State by building new dams and canals. The drought and court-ordered cutbacks on pumping water from the Sacramento River delta have forced many farmers to abandon their fields.

Last month, the Governor issued an executive order declaring a statewide drought, which directed his state agencies and departments to take immediate action to address the serious drought conditions and water delivery reductions that exist in California.

According to a press release for the Governor's office, "California is facing the most significant water crisis in its history. After experiencing two years of drought and the driest spring in recorded history, water reserves are extremely low and would not be able to meet public demand during a major disruption to the state's water delivery system such as an earthquake or levee breach. With the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem near collapse, court-ordered restrictions on water deliveries from the Delta have reduced supplies from the state's two largest water systems by 20 to 30 percent"

For a more detailed look at the Governor's plan go to <http://gov.ca.gov/press-release/10148/> (<http://gov.ca.gov/press-release/10148/>)

"OBAMA LOVE"

Thu, 07/24/2008 - 07:05

The McCain Campaign is accusing the media of engaging in what a campaign video calls "Obama Love." Jeanne Moos presents a most unusual juxtaposition of coverage of the two candidates, "There he was, his arm nestled around Israel's President. There he was, waving, his arm draped around the Palestinian leader having his backslapped by Jordan's King. Talk about getting the Presidential treatment a Palestinian spokesman almost called him President. Believe me â€œ President' Senator Obama left us feeling very well."

Feeling not-so-well, the McCain Campaign accused the media of "Obama Love" with examples set to music. On John McCain's website you could vote for your preferred love song "You're Just Too Good to be True" or "My Eyes Adored You".

Jordan's King Abdullah did not just see him in person the King personally got behind the wheel of a Mercedes and drove Obama to the airport. Contrast that to the other day with former President George Bush giving John McCain a lift in a golf cart.

For those who are curious, you can watch the Obama Love video here.



Water Conservation is the Name of the Game

Thu, 07/24/2008 - 07:05

With two bad water years on the books, and no relief in sight, conservation is the name of the game in California this summer.

That lack of water is putting even more pressure on efforts to come up with a comprehensive water plan, and ways to pay for water improvements. Hundreds of laid-off farm workers put the pressure on Sacramento to adopt Governor Schwarzenegger and Senator Dianne Feinstein's \$10 billion dollar water plan to shore up the State's water supplies with new dams and canals.

The current drought and court-ordered cutbacks on pumping water from the Sacramento River Delta have forced many farmers to abandon their fields. Mr. Gomez explains, "No water. no jobs. no food. no future for all of our families."

Already, crop loss in California is approaching a quarter billion dollars for this year. Cotton losses total 62 million acres. Vegetables like lettuce, broccoli and onions are out 61 million acres. Tomatoes for processing are out 10 million and melons are at 7 million.

Governor Schwarzenegger said "You are all doing your job. You're going to work. You're raising your family and you are feeding the world, but our water system is not anymore working for you."

But State Democratic leaders have been lukewarm to the idea of another bond. They say there is still \$800 million dollars leftover from the last water bond and more debt seems unaffordable, given the State's financial crunch.

Perata is quoted saying, "A 10 billion dollar bond adds a sizeable amount of interest payment to the State's budget. If we're in trouble now, there's no reason to compound it."

The State's agricultural products are coveted worldwide; the drought could mean fewer crops and higher prices. The

Governor has been trying to broker a deal on a water plan for two years, meanwhile, more and more counties are rationing water, reservoirs are drying up and the State could be facing year three of a drought in Sacramento.

Feather Falls Scenic Area Closed

Thu, 07/24/2008 - 07:00

Due to our recent wildfires, the Feather Falls Scenic Area and Trail in Butte County will be closed until further notice.

The access road is just off Lumpkin Road west of the town of Feather Falls and is closed through Labor Day or longer. Currently, fires sparked by lightning last month are still burning in the area causing damage. Once containment is reached, officials will assess the damage and begin reparations.

Surviving the Smoke

Wed, 07/23/2008 - 10:36



Firefighters are getting the upper hand on several of the fires burning around the North State, but the smoke hasn't cleared yet. Several towns are having a smoky day, and the air quality is in the unhealthy range for some areas. That's why the Cal Fire, the U.S. Forest Service and local County Public Health Departments are banning together to give you tips on surviving the air.

People who are exposed to a lot of smoke could experience several symptoms including eye irritation, scratchy throat, coughing, shortness of breathe, headaches, and a runny nose. People with existing heart and lung disease may experience heightened symptoms. Children and the elderly are more likely to be affected by the smoke.

Tips on reducing your exposure to smoke:

- Stay indoors with doors and windows closed.

- Run your air conditioner on the "re-circulate" setting.

- Don't use swamp coolers.

- When driving make sure to keep your windows rolled up and keep your air conditioner on "re-circulate."

- Minimize outdoor activity.

- If temperatures are high and you have no air conditioning, try to go to a public facility with an air conditioner for a break.

Fires Force Animals to Flee

Wed, 07/23/2008 - 10:19

What happened to little Smokey could have happened to many more animals in the Northstate but be it luck or natural instinct, a lot of animals escaped the fires, heading instead for more populated places. Harold Underwood had a bobcat come to his home, seeking refuge from the fire. Whiskey Town National Park said the bobcat and other

animals did what we would do in a fire, flee for safety.



Paradise Police Not Guilty of Excessive Force Charges

Wed, 07/23/2008 - 10:17

The Paradise Police Department is undergoing an image makeover after a series of excessive force complaints, including an incident back in February where an officer shot and killed a woman at the Paradise Cemetery. Now the Department can officially justify most of those claims.

The Butte County Grand Jury just released their 2007 report. In it, they discredited some of the excessive force complaints. In 2007, the Paradise Police department made over 1700 arrests, four of them resulted in excessive force complaints.

Paradise Police Chief, "The vast majority of those in paradise are very satisfied with our level of service that we deliver to the community. It's just a few that are not."

The Butte County Grand Jury seems to agree with Police Chief, Gerald Carrigan.

In their 2007 report, they were quote, "impressed with the leadership of the PPD."

The report goes on to say that the department has investigated all excessive force complaints thoroughly and that the February shooting of a woman in the Paradise Cemetery by an officer was justified. Gerald Carrigan has said, "We have done a lot of hard work within the community and so I thought that it was a fair reflection on our efforts."

Now that the report has come out, the Paradise Police Department is moving forward by using technology to prove the appropriate use of force. The Department already has two dash cams, and plan to purchase two more. Other technology includes an audio camera that can record both video and audio while an officer is making an arrest.

"Police departments have this stigma attached to them of secrecy and what we're trying to do is be open with the public and let them see." says Chief Carrigan. He hopes the Public will see what he already knows, "The men and women who work for the paradise police department are second to none. I have never doubted their ability to be forthright honest, hardworking individuals."

Out of the four complaints, two are still pending, Chief Carrigan says those should be resolved very soon. The Chief plans to present the Grand Jury's findings at a public meeting this Thursday at the Paradise Town Hall.

Bella Vista Man Bargains for Murder

Wed, 07/23/2008 - 10:13

A Bella Vista man's willingness to testify against his co-defendants is keeping him from spending an extremely long time in prison for murder. Alan Edenfield was sentenced to three years for his role in the murder of Leo Rapp in 2005. In 2005 Redding police found Leo Rapp, age 20, in the trunk of an overturned vehicle.

According to a 2005 Associated Press Report, "Investigators believe Rapp was lured to the workplace of his former girlfriend, 18-year-old Victoria Rose Sherman. Sherman told investigators that Rapp had sexually assaulted her in the past and that she and others devised a plan to assault him."

Edenfield's charge of first degree murder was reduced to voluntary manslaughter in exchange for his testimony.

The judge says it would have been much more difficult to prosecute the five others involved in the case without it.

California State Budget is Late

Wed, 07/23/2008 - 09:19

The budget was due July first and Legislators are running late and if legislators cannot agree on a spending plan by the end of August, the State will run out of money.

Assembly member Doug Lamalfa briefed Shasta County supervisors on what is going on in Sacramento, and what to expect. The Republican says right now the political parties have different ideas how to narrow a budget gap that is moving toward 20 billion dollars.

He says, "It's a really tough situation because the 2 sides are so far apart. Republicans have outlined solutions that we think can work for the budget to narrow the gap quite a bit and then get down to just the last few discussion points. I think we can get quite a ways there, if both sides want to sit down and talk honestly about that."

Lamalfa says the State is running so far into the red that the Legislature can not be trusted to balance a budget, stating the process needs reform and needs it soon, "I've seen in my 5 1/2 years that discipline is not going to come from the Legislature itself, to control spending. Republicans can fight as hard as they can on it, but we've been in the minority all 5 1/2 of my years there. Really it's going to come from a constitutional amendment I think that imposes that discipline on the Legislature that doesn't have it itself."

In Shasta County general employees are making the statement that they are disappointed with the mediation process, the union has been without a contract since the end of April.

The Butte County League of Women Voters will be sponsoring an emergency community meeting tonight discussing a proposed budget cut to the California State Budget that would impact community services such as healthcare, education, and disability services. The meeting is from 3:00PM to 6:00PM at the Chico City Council located at 411 Main Street in Chico and open to the public.

Shots Fired in Redding Neighborhood

Wed, 07/23/2008 - 07:22

A Redding man was arrested last night for firing a handgun from his roof. The Redding Police arrived at the scene to find the suspect running down the street with a loaded nine millimeter pistol. The man claimed that ten people were trying to get into his house and that the shots were fired in self defense. He was taken to a local hospital for treatment and a mental health evaluation. No one was hurt.

Police searched the man's home and found two assault rifles. Police seized all of the weapons as a safety precaution. The suspect could possibly face charges for unsafe discharge of a weapon.

Viewer Pictures

Tue, 07/22/2008 - 14:47



send your pictures to news@krcrtv.com

Forest Ranch Charter School Open

Tue, 07/22/2008 - 14:40

Forest Ranch Charter School in Butte County has the required number of students to officially open! Now, attention is focusing on getting all the teachers in place and facilities ready for the first day of school, September 2nd. The school was recently on the chopping block but got new life when the Chico Unified School District allowed it to become a charter school. Classes will begin but all those involved say they could still use some help.

California Plans to Boost Housing Market

Tue, 07/22/2008 - 14:38

The State of California is trying to do what it can to boost the State's housing crises. Now there is a proposal to make it easier for first time buyers to get into a foreclosed home. 200 million dollars is available under the Community Stabilization Home Loan Program. It will help 800 to 1000 first time buyers purchase a foreclosed home with a 30 year below market fixed rate mortgage. For some Californians the dream of homeownership is now within reach.

FDA Blames Jalapeno Peppers for Salmonella Outbreak

Tue, 07/22/2008 - 14:36

The FDA now believes they have found the culprit of a national salmonella outbreak that has sickened more than a thousand people. It was originally thought to be tomatoes... now investigators say it is jalapeno peppers. Researchers found a single jalapeno pepper tested positive for the same deadly strain found in those who were sick. The pepper was grown in Mexico and processed in a Texas plant but it is not clear where the pepper became tainted. For now the FDA is asking people to avoid fresh jalapeno peppers and food products made from them.

Redding Woman Faces 25 Years for Fraud

Tue, 07/22/2008 - 14:36

A Redding woman could face 25 years in prison after pleading guilty to wire fraud and tax evasion. US Attorneys say 61-year-old Peggy Witts admits she embezzled more than \$850,000 from Voorwood Company, Inc. of Anderson. She is also in trouble for not reporting the stolen money as income. Witt started working at Voorwood in 1991, eventually becoming the Chief Financial Officer and President. Prosecutors say she issued duplicate checks to herself and family members. Witt has to repay the money and can not work in a similar capacity for 13 years.

Former Principal Sentenced

Tue, 07/22/2008 - 14:35

A former principal at Platina Elementary in Shasta County has been sentenced to six months in jail for having child pornography. 54-year-old Craig Lee must now register as a sex offender. Lee was arrested in April 2007 after his girlfriend stumbled onto photographs of children involved in sex acts while she was cleaning the house. Lee was a Superintendent in Marin County from July 2006 until his arrest.

Shots Fired in Oroville

Tue, 07/22/2008 - 09:44

Polices are searching for a suspect who fired several shots on Concow Maidu Dr. in Oroville. The Butte County Sheriff's Department arrived on scene minutes later after hearing the gunfire around 10PM Monday night. Deputies found a home with several bullet holes and shell casing in the road. No one was hurt. Deputies are now searching for a gray or silver smaller 4-door car. They say it was last seen heading towards Pano Lane and Lower Wyandotte Road.

Tuesday Morning Fire Update

Tue, 07/22/2008 - 09:24

News on the lightning-sparked fires just keeps getting better and better. The fires first started on June 21st. At the peak of this fire incident, firefighters were battling over 2,010. This Tuesday there are only 33 active fires left.

TRINITY COUNTY

Several of those active fires are burning in Trinity County. There are two complexes in the county. The Iron Complex is burning near Highway 299 and Junction City. The Lime Complex is burning in the Southern part of the county closer to Highway 36. Crews are battling flames on the south and east sides of the Lime Complex. On the Iron Complex, firefighters are getting the upper hand. They are performing burnout operations to the east and are building lines to the south of the Eagle fire. Mandatory evacuations have been lifted for the Manzanita Ranch area in Northern Hyampom. All other mandatory evacuations are still in effect.

***A public meeting will be held Tuesday night to discuss the Hell's Half Complex at 6PM at the Hyampom Community Hall in Hyampom.

SHASTA COUNTY

The Motion Fire in Shasta Count is almost fully contained. It's now 95 percent contained. Fire Crews are now mopping up the area and getting in the last of the fire line. Officials tell us you may still be able to see the fire burning, but most of that is happening within the fire lines. All road closures in Shasta County have been lifted. Whiskeytown National Park opened the Whiskey arm of the Lake and boat ramp, with that a majority of the shoreline is now open. Most of the backcountry is still closed. The Moon fire is now 100% contained.

BUTTE COUNTY

The Butte Complex is at 90% contained. Crews are now focusing on fire lines at the north end of the Camp Fire, but steep terrain is slowing the process. Fire officials hope to have all fires 100% contained by this Thursday. There are no evacuations in place for Butte County.

Butte County Women's Facility Needs Remodel

Mon, 07/21/2008 - 16:54

The women's facility at the Butte County Jail is so substandard, that it is more like the dog pound than a jail. That is according to a scathing report from the Butte County Grand Jury. People who work there say it is true, but there is no money to do anything about it. The Grand Jury described the women's jail as a "1940's caged zoo". The jail was built in 1964. It has linear design, which keeps inmates on one side of the bars and staff on the other. Now most jails allow officers to patrol from inside the tank, and that is designed to let them keep a closer eye on inmates. Lieutenant Brian Flicker says the jail is not only outdated, it is also overcrowded. He said, "Every night at midnight, my sergeant needs to look at the population and decide who is going to get a bed: is that person is going to get out or are we going to release someone to house that person?" The jail can house 91 inmates, and right now it is at maximum capacity. Flicker says last year he had to release three to five female inmates each week because of overcrowding. Butte County is trying to get state money to build the new jail, but Flicker says the State wants the County to first build a

re-entry facility, run by the State. The Butte County Sheriff supported a locally run re-entry facility, but Flicker says the State turned down that request about two weeks ago.

Leak in Red Bluff Pool Better, But Not Fixed

Mon, 07/21/2008 - 16:45

A leaky faucet is one thing, but imagine a pool that leaks 20,000 gallons of water every day. That is what has been happening at the McGlynn Pool in Red Bluff. The leak was discovered a few years ago. Back then, it was leaking 40,000 gallons a day. A temporary patch did make the problem better. Now, City officials are moving forward with a permanent fix. In the meantime, they say it may sound like a big problem, but things could be a lot worse. The pool did receive a State grant to help fix the problem. A consultant will be at the August 5th City Council meeting to suggest how to go about doing that.

Murder Suspect Pleads Guilty

Mon, 07/21/2008 - 16:41

A Shasta County woman admits her guilt in the murder of her ex-husband. 40-year old Mayme Miller pleaded guilty on Friday to voluntary manslaughter. She requested a quick sentencing and received 14 years and 4 months in prison. Miller was arrested in June after confessing to killing 68-year old Arthur Miller. According to officials, Mayme hid the body under some shrubs near a homeless camp in Anderson, where she was staying.

The logo for KRCR-TV, featuring the call letters in a bold, white, sans-serif font against a blue background.

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Fewer Than Three Dozen Wildfires Still Burn

Northern California Scorched By Lightning-Sparked Blazes



Cool, moist weather is helping firefighters bring down the number of wildfires still burning in Northern California.

A month after fire officials reported that lightning had sparked more than 2,000 fires across Northern California, just 33 are still burning.

Some of those fires are still spreading heavy smoke over Trinity and Humboldt counties.

As a result, the California Air Resources Board has issued a health warning for Northern California.

A wildfire burning near Junction City in rural Trinity County has the town of 800 still under evacuation orders.

Officials said that fire is 56 percent contained after burning 89 square miles.

Along the coast, fire crews are getting closer to containing a wildfire near Big Sur. After burning about 214 square miles, that fire is now 72 percent contained.

Related To Story



SAUL LOEB/AFP/Getty Images
Marine One, with President George W. Bush aboard, flies over wildfire damage during an aerial tour in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest near Redding, Calif., on July 17, 2008.

WILDFIRES

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2NEWS.TV Boise, Idaho

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Haze lingering over Boise

by Callie Zanandrie

Originally printed at <http://www.2news.tv/news/local/25966329.html>

BOISE - The Idaho Department of Environmental quality issued a yellow air quality alert for Sunday. If you look outside and you'll see there's a haze lingering over Boise.

Sensitive groups may notice the pollution, especially those who have trouble breathing and the smoky haze covering the skies makes it a problem for some like Adam Grenzebach to breathe.

"Any time you really try to breath in heavy there's a little pain in the lungs," said Adam Grenzebach, an avid biker.

The Department of Environmental Quality issued a yellow air quality alert warning residents to take precautions a warning that is often ignored.

The DEQ says residents are advised to avoid strenuous outdoor activities, fueling vehicles and mowing the lawn during the hottest part of the day.

The Department of Environmental Quality says people suffering from asthma or other lung conditions may have a tough time.

The DEQ says right now, it's mostly smoke that's causing the haze you see. Ozone is colorless and odorless.

"Smoke can transport, you know, for thousands of miles actually. I think it was last year, earlier in the year we got Russian wildfire smoke. That's how far that can travel," said Leonard Herr, Department of Environmental Quality.

But even if higher air quality alerts are issued Adam says it's not going to stop him from riding.

When it comes to air quality the Department of Environmental Quality uses six colors to rank the level of danger.

According to the Department of Environmental Quality, if our ranking is green, air pollution poses little or no risk.

A yellow ranking means there's a moderate health concern for people who are unusually sensitive to ozone levels.

An orange ranking means children and people with respiratory disease are at greater risk.

"Unhealthy" red and "very unhealthy" purple mean everyone should cut back on outside activities.

Maroon means hazardous and the DEQ says you should steer clear of the outdoors.



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Blaze near Yosemite

Crews gain on firestorm outside park entrance

By Jeff St. John - Fresno Bee

Published 12:00 am PDT Monday, July 28, 2008

A fast-moving wildfire near Yosemite National Park claimed 12 homes and prompted more evacuations Sunday, as thousands of firefighters struggled to keep it from engulfing nearby communities.

In Mariposa, a town of about 1,800 residents, hospital officials prepared to evacuate 29 patients to other Valley hospitals – or have firefighters surround the hospital to try to defend it if fire sweeps down on the community.

In Yosemite, hotels and restaurants got by on generators, after power lines to Yosemite Valley were shut down because of the fire and the risk to firefighters working beneath the wires.

The Telegraph fire, yet another in an already deadly California fire season, had charred more than 26,000 acres by late Sunday and continued to threaten nearly 2,000 homes in the Mariposa County foothills that serve as Yosemite's western gateway.

The fire had not caused any reported deaths or injuries, but had destroyed the dozen homes and 27 outbuildings, Wayne Barringer, fire information officer for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, said Sunday afternoon.

State fire authorities on Saturday ordered the evacuation of the community of Midpines, about 12 miles from the park along Highway 140, and on Sunday issued an evacuation warning for people living in the communities east of Highway 49 at Mykleoaks Road south to the Highway 140 junction and communities west of Highway 140 from Mariposa north to Briceburg.

Fire officials said cooling temperatures had helped slow the fire's spread, and allowed crews to build lines. The fire was reported 10 percent contained Sunday evening.

"There's no fire history in the past 100 years. That's one of the reasons this fire's been able to burn so erratically," said Daniel Berlant, spokesman for Cal Fire.

Nearly 2,000 firefighters, coming from as far as San Diego, were fighting the blaze Sunday.

State fire officials said the fire was started by someone target shooting but would not say more. The fire started Friday, spread along the steep Merced River valley and grew out of control Saturday, fire officials said.

"It was a firestorm," said Midpines resident Eric McClard, 26, as he recalled his 30-minute escape from his home after being ordered to evacuate Saturday.

He was told Sunday that his home had been destroyed, though he hadn't confirmed that with state fire officials.

His mother, Kelly McClard, said she knew danger was upon them when the sky turned black with smoke and flames crested the nearest hill.

"We had to use our headlights because the smoke was so thick," she said. "It seemed like night, and then we got halfway down the street, and it was a beautiful day again."

Fresno native Chris Moyle, a 23-year-old state firefighter stationed in Los Banos, said he and his fellow firefighters had faced "extreme fire behavior" as they worked to protect a home in the Midpines area from the approaching flames through Saturday night and Sunday morning.

"Fire whirls, sheeting, high temperatures, steep terrain – the fire was making a big run," he said Sunday as he waited at the state's operations center at the Mariposa County Fairgrounds to eat and catch some sleep after finishing a 36-hour shift.

A haze of smoke hung over Mariposa on Sunday, and to the north, the line of rising smoke that marked the fire's southern edge could be seen stretching from Mount Bullion to the east to Highway 140 to the west.

Ashes drifted like snowflakes across Mariposa, and falling ash was reported as far away as Clovis on Sunday. State authorities warned motorists to avoid driving on Highway 140 between Mariposa and Yosemite on Sunday night because of low visibility and heavy fire vehicle traffic.

A Red Cross evacuation center at Mariposa Elementary School had served about 50 people, with 16 people staying the night Saturday, said Jim Rydingsword, Mariposa County director of human services.

To protect firefighters battling flames beneath power lines, electricity was cut to a wide area, including the national park, fire officials said. When Pacific Gas & Electric Co. might restore power to Yosemite Valley remained unclear. The transmission line that fed power to Yosemite was destroyed in the fire Saturday, PG&E said.

The utility was bringing two mobile generators to the area from Sacramento.

Julie Chavez, Yosemite park ranger, said generator power was still flowing to the visitor's center, grocery stores, restaurants and hotel lobbies, but not to hotel rooms.

"We're still running on the generators, and we don't have any update on when the power is going to be coming on," she said.

Chavez cautioned there was no way to know how long the generators could operate.

Despite the loss of power and smoky haze, visitors continued to enter the park Sunday, though Chavez did not have any numbers. On a typical summer day, about 18,000 visitors come into the park, she said.

Some campers were leaving because of the fire, but Chavez said it was not a mass exodus.

"It's definitely affected visitors," she said. "There is more space available than we usually have this time of season because of the smoke."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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Yosemite Fire Destroys 12 Homes, Scorches 26,000 Acres
Written for the web by [Jason Kobely](#), Internet News Producer





MIDPINES, Calif. (AP) -- California fire officials said an out-of-control wildfire burning near Yosemite National Park has destroyed 12 homes and is threatening thousands more.

The fast-spreading Telegraph blaze has charred more than 26,000 acres since Friday as wooded slopes ignited amid hot, dry conditions that have plagued California for months. The fire was completely uncontained Sunday morning.

The wildfire led officials to order the evacuations of 170 homes under immediate threat. At least 27 outbuildings were also destroyed by the flames. About 2,000 homes faced at least some danger from the fast-spreading flames.

"There's no fire history in the past 100 hundred years. That's one of the reasons this fire's been able to burn so erratically," said Daniel Berlant, spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Most of the evacuated homes are in the town of Midpines, located along Highway 140, about 12 miles from the park's west entrance.

Berlant said the southern edge of the blaze was as little as two miles from Mariposa, a town of about 1,800 residents.

About 900 firefighters battled the blaze on both sides of a steep, rugged canyon along the Merced River.

State fire spokeswoman Karen Guillemain said the cause of the fire "is definitely target shooting," but she would not elaborate.

On Saturday, firefighting efforts were hampered by temperatures over 100 degrees and low humidity. The weather, coupled with a dry wilderness area, has made fighting the blaze very hazardous.

Two UH-60 Blackhawk aircrews from the Louisiana National Guard were dispatched from Mather Field to Castle Airport in Merced to support fire suppression operations.

The aircraft, which completed fire support missions in Butte County July 25, departed Mather around 1 p.m. Sunday.

Yosemite officials said roads and facilities in the park remained open with limited impacts from the blaze.

Yosemite spokeswoman Victoria Mapes said that while visitors could expect some reduction in visibility and localized smoke throughout the park, popular destinations like Tuolumne Meadows, Wawona and White Wolf were open and all roads into the park remained clear Sunday.

Though Pacific Gas and Electric cut power to the park, onsite generators were supplying energy to keep lodges, stores and visitor service stations open.

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The Web Site of The Sacramento Bee

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Central Valley air quality suffers from fires

- The Associated Press

Published 12:11 pm PDT Monday, July 28, 2008

Smoke from a fire burning out of control near Yosemite National Park has prompted air quality warnings as far south as Kern County.

Officials from the San Joaquin Valley Air District say particulate levels from the fire, and another one near in Fresno County, are expected to be high from San Joaquin County south through Bakersfield.

Particulate in smoke can cause health problems, asthma attacks and acute bronchitis and increase the risk of respiratory infections. Air district officials warn people to avoid prolonged exposure and heavy exertion outdoors.

The fire near Yosemite fire has destroyed 12 homes and forced the evacuation of about 200 others. Fire officials say it has charred more than 40 square miles since a target shooter sparked a flame Friday.

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Air Quality Alert Remains for Mariposa County

Written for the web by Posted By: [C. Johnson](#), Internet News Producer



CENTRAL VALLEY, CA - While breezy, slight cooler than average weather is on tap Tuesday for the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys, fire smoke continues to be a concern east and south of Modesto.

News10 weather reporter Gregg Lalka says smoke particulates from the Telegraph Fire burning about 12 miles from Yosemite National Park have triggered an Air Quality Alert in the area. Smoke could affect portions of the following counties: Mariposa, Tuolumne, Madera, Merced, Fresno, Tulare and Kern.

Smoke particulates are minute chemicals that can cause burning eyes, scratchy throats and coughs. Those with respiratory ailments as well as the very young and elderly can be most affected. Air and health experts urge people to minimize outdoor exposure and activities.

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Calif. fires mean hazy days to linger

By JESSICA MAYRER Chronicle staff writer

Smoke is streaming into Bozeman from fires in Northern California, Canada and Western Montana, which means the hazy days of summer will likely stick around for the foreseeable future, according to an atmospheric expert from Montana State University.

"I'd bank on it being pretty smoky for the next little while," MSU's Joe Shaw said.

But, even with the ever-present haze over the valley, air quality has remained mostly "moderate," said Tim Roark, environmental health director for Gallatin County.

Most people don't notice adverse health effects when air quality is moderate, Roark said, but sensitive individuals, the elderly or the very young and people with asthma, might struggle.

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality uses a six-tiered scale to rate the air based on visibility: first is good; next is moderate; then it progresses to unhealthy for sensitive groups; unhealthy; very unhealthy; and hazardous.

"That's when it's really, really smoky out," Roark said.

Bozeman's air quality became unhealthy for a brief time last week, Roark said. But because everyone has a different threshold, people experiencing labored breathing anytime should consult a doctor, stay indoors and avoid exercise, he said.

While a few new fires have sparked in Montana during the past week, including the 2,200-acre Cascade Fire near Red Lodge, much of the smoke coming our way is from California, Shaw said.



SEAN SPERRY/CHRONICLE Hazy skies, caused by wildfire smoke originating in California, are likely to last throughout the summer.

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"It's pretty clear that the bulk of everything is pulling in from Northern California," he said.

Heat carries smoke high into the atmosphere. So warm temperatures, and even the fire itself, can push smoke up into the jet stream to be carried thousands of miles away. Fire plumes from blazes in Canada and Northern California are merging over Montana and North Dakota, sending smoky skies as far away as Vermont and New York, Shaw said.

"There's a steady pipeline of smoke coming in," he said. "It just catches the wind and takes a ride."

It's common for fires in neighboring states to affect the air over Montana, especially Washington and Idaho, Shaw said. They, too, have seen a few blazes this season.

"They just seem to always have fires burning," Shaw said.

But so far Montana has seen cooler temperatures and fewer fires.

"We've been really fortunate. Our weather has been reasonably mild," Shaw said. "Compared to last year, for example, it's nowhere near as bad."

For more information on air quality log on to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality web site and click on air quality info or call 582-3120.

Jessica Mayrer can be reached at jmayrer@dailychronicle.com or 582-2635.

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Wildfires smoke out park visitors

- Story Highlights
- Campers at California's Yosemite National Park choose to leave as ash falls
- Fire has destroyed 25 homes, forced evacuation of 300 others
- Park remains open for business
- Hotels in and near park are running on generators

MARIPOSA, California (AP) -- Visitors to Yosemite National Park weighed whether to cut their vacations short Tuesday as a destructive wildfire raging miles from the famed wilderness threatened thousands of homes and left evacuees stranded.

Authorities said late Monday the blaze tearing through a steep, dry river canyon had destroyed 25 homes, more than double the number reported earlier in the day. The fire has forced the evacuation of about 300 homes in the nearby towns of Midpines and Coulterville and is endangering as many as 4,000 others.

More than 46 square miles of mostly wilderness terrain have burned since a target shooter sparked the wildfire on Friday. The fire was 10 percent contained Monday night as it burned about 12 miles from Yosemite National Park, which remained open.

Still, some visitors packed their bags and left campgrounds and other areas near the park because of the fire and the smoky haze that accompanied it.

[Watch how smoke obscures the park's beauty »](#)

"You would like to be relaxed on your holiday," said Trees Duipmans, visiting from the Netherlands with her three teenage children. "If you're looking for tension you visit New York City. This here is a whole other kind of tension."

Duipmans and her three children, ages 14 to 18, arrived at a campground outside Yosemite on Sunday afternoon, when smoke had already turned the sun a deep glowing red. They camped overnight but decided to leave Monday.

"There was ash falling on our tent. We think we will go to the beach," she said.

Highway 140, which leads to one entrance of the park, remained closed Monday evening, according to the [California](#) Department of Transportation. Other entrances to the park were still open along Highway 120 at Big Oak Flat, Highway 123 over Tioga Pass and Highway 41 through Oakhurst.

Earlier in the day, [Yosemite's](#) chief ranger Steve Shackelton stood along Highway 140 watching flames lick down the side of the river canyon.

"See that?" he said, pointing at a flaming pine cone tumbling down the hillside. "If wind comes from the north, the embers from that pine cone could jump right across this canyon."

As Shackelton spoke, the pine cone left a flaming trail that sent fire raging up the slope of dry grass, sending out a veil of smoke that obscured the view of the blaze.

"This is some of the most difficult territory you can find in California for fighting [fires](#)," said Mikel Martin, chief of the Madera-Mariposa Unit. "That country is so steep you could almost say it's straight up and straight down."

At the peak of summer, as many as 4,000 visitors a day stream into the park. Officials didn't expect the fire would keep many away.

"People are out there hiking, the campgrounds are full, everyone is taking the smoke in stride," said Scott Gediman, a park ranger.

Power has been out since Saturday in the park and in the outlying community of El Portal on the park's western boundary. Hotels in the area are open and running on generators.

California has been dogged by wildfire since June, and hot, dry conditions have turned flare-ups into prolonged firefights. Many earlier blazes were ignited by a massive lightning storm. [Watch fires force people out of their homes »](#)

High temperatures are expected Tuesday to remain in the low- to mid-90s, with low humidity and afternoon wind, National Weather Service meteorologist Dan Gudgel said Monday.

In south-central [Montana](#), a fast-moving wildfire near the Red Lodge Mountain Ski Resort grew to 5,800 acres Monday. Five summer cabins and an outbuilding have been destroyed, and 80 to 100 homes were evacuated as a precaution.

Officials are concerned that winds forecast to blow 25 mph to 35 mph on Tuesday could push the fire further to the east, out of a canyon and toward at least 90 homes in the Grizzly Peaks subdivision, which was evacuated Sunday.

About 2 miles from the fire, employees of the ski resort were running at least eight snowmaking guns to spray water on its two lodges and several lift shacks. Late in the day, air tankers dumped fire retardant to slow the blaze's advance toward the ski area.

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Air Quality Deteriorates for Mariposa and Tuolumne Counties
 Written for the web by Posted By: [C. Johnson](#), Internet News Producer



CENTRAL VALLEY, CA -- The Mariposa and Tuolumne County Air Pollution Control Districts have issued an air quality alert for Tuesday night through Noon Thursday.

Officials issued the alert as smoke from fires in Mariposa and Fresno counties compromise the air quality around the Central Valley. Winds have sent smoke from the fires into the foothills and mountain areas of Mariposa and Tuolumne Counties.

With the smoke comes smoke particulates. Those are minute chemicals that can cause burning eyes, scratchy throats and coughs. Those with respiratory ailments as well as the very young and elderly can be most affected. Air and health experts urge people to minimize outdoor exposure and activities.

As for the rest of the region, air quality should remain good on Wednesday from the Coast through the Delta and into the Central Valley as a strong onshore flow moves into those areas.

Created: 7/29/2008
9:26:22 AM

Updated: 7/30/2008
1:37:39 AM

AUGUST 2008



News Archives

Canyon Road Fire is Out; All are Safe

Wed, 08/13/2008 - 10:33

Things have quieted down in the Happy Valley area after an 18 acre fire broke out yesterday. Canyon Road in the area of China Gulch is back open this morning.

The fire started just after three yesterday and quickly burned about 18 acres of trees and grass. Officials tell us the fire threatened a few homes but none were burned. They are not sure what started the blaze. This is the same area that the Canyon Fires burned down over sixty homes in 1999.

China Gulch Fire

Tue, 08/12/2008 - 19:18



[china gulch fire \(http://www.vimeo.com/1519854?pg=embed&sec=1519854\)](http://www.vimeo.com/1519854?pg=embed&sec=1519854) from [KRCRTV \(http://www.vimeo.com/user656110?pg=embed&sec=1519854\)](http://www.vimeo.com/user656110?pg=embed&sec=1519854) on [Vimeo \(http://vimeo.com?pg=embed&sec=1519854\)](http://vimeo.com?pg=embed&sec=1519854).

A fast moving fire near China Gulch and Canyon Road spread through southwest Redding.

Iron Complex Fire Update

Sun, 08/10/2008 - 11:03

Serious Accident: The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is the lead investigative authority over H-44 helicopter crash on the north Buckhorn Fire. Any information related to the circumstances of the accident will be released by the NTSB.

Current Fire Situation: 68% Contained. Eagle Fire to the north and west, and the Buckhorn Fire to the south, pose an increasing risk to the community of Big Bar. The Eagle Fire remained active on its southwest flank yesterday and through the night. Strategic firing operation off of the 16 road held the westward flanking of the Eagle Fire. The Eagle Fire is expected to continue backing into Price Creek drainage today with a potential for southward upslope runs. The south flank of the Buckhorn Fire continues to actively back into the French Creek drainage. The Carey Fire remained

relatively inactive and continues backing slowly into the Eagle Creek drainage.

Today's Objectives: Eagle Fire: Crews will continue to hold the southwest flank of the fire on the 16 Road using burn-out operations as necessary. Structural protection engines will be in place in the lower Price Creek drainage and will continue preparing for possible burn-out operations. Firefighters continue to patrol, mop-up, and hold already established containment lines along the fire's northern, eastern and southern flanks. Buckhorn Fire: Firefighters continue indirect fire containment line construction and preparation of Manzanita Ridge as a contingency line. Fire crews continue to provide point protection at both the Brooks and Lower Waldorf ranches. Carey Fire: Fire crews continue to hold the fire perimeter, patrol and mop up the west and east flanks of the fire. Cedar and Caraway Fires: Fire fighters continue to patrol, cold trail, and mop within 300 feet along the containment lines. Fire suppression damage repair continues in the Cedar Fire.

Lime Complex Fire Update

Sun, 08/10/2008 - 10:51

Current Fire Situation: 95% Contained. Both the Miners and the Lime fires remain within containment lines and fire managers are optimistic that containment goals will be met.

Miners Fire: The Miners fire continues to consume unburned interior portions with a steady decrease in intensity. Crews continued to patrol the fire and reclaim dozer and hand lines.

Lime Fire: The Lime fire is being held north of Hidden Valley Ranch Road and Little Bear Wallow Creek. Interior pockets of unburned fuels in the southeastern portion of the fire continue to burn. Rolling materials and burning debris continue to complicate suppression efforts. Yesterday efforts to limit the spread of a small spot fire in the southeast portion of the fire were successful. Hose lays in place will greatly aid in limiting possible spread.

Fire Suppression Repair: Successful completion of repair work on dozer lines for the Nobel, Deerlick, and Telephone fires. In conjunction with suppression efforts, repair work has been initiated on the Lime Fire.

The Craig Fire Threatens Homes

Thu, 08/07/2008 - 10:53

75 homes are threatened this morning as Butte County firefighters try to contain the Craig fire. There is an immediate threat evacuation for all roads north of Lumpkin Road beginning at Cedar Tree Lane including Mills Ranch Road, on Yett Road, and Kanaaka Ranch Road to Island Bar Hill Road.

The precautionary evacuations for Cochise Drive, Blackhawk trail, crystal ranch road, Toyon Lane and all roads south of Lumpkin Road east of Happy Hollow Lane are still holding.

There is an evacuation center in Oroville at the church of the Nazarene on Monte Vista Avenue.

Containment for the Craig fire is at 50% and officials now expect to have the fire fully contained by Sunday. As of this morning there have 5 injuries and 1 residence destroyed.

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Big Bar saved from fire attack

By **AMY GITTELSOHN**

by **PHIL NELSON** At Big Bar Friday, a shed was wrapped in protective foil prior to the burnout.

officer on the Iron-Alps complex of fires.

"It made a big run towards town," said Hadley, describing flame lengths a hundred feet high at the top of the ridge around 10 p.m. After racing up the other side of the ridge, as the weather cooled the fire moved more slowly down toward homes.

The flames got within 500 feet of the homes, and at 5 a.m. Saturday crews lit a lowintensity burn, Hadley said. He added that had it not been for the burnout, that afternoon "instead of a black line between them and the advancing front, we would have lost homes."

"They have a nice fire break now and still have their forest," Hadley said, describing the three-mile long, 500- foot-wide burnout as "a nice underburn; the trees are intact and alive on that slope."

"At this point we don't anticipate having to do any additional firing," Hadley said on Monday.

There was a mandatory evacuation for Big Bar north of Highway 299 on Friday evening which was lifted on Sunday. Mandatory evacuations are not enforced, and the majority of residents stuck around. About 10 people used an evacuation center set up in Weaverville.

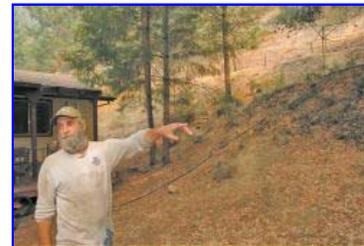
"Most of them were sitting downtown in their lawn chairs watching the fire," Hadley said.

Power to the community was intentionally shut off on Saturday because of fire near power lines, and it was turned back on that evening. Telephone service was out for about 250 Verizon customers, with the phone company expecting to restore service to all customers by Wednesday, Aug. 20.

The Buckhorn Fire has calmed after a run over the top of the ridge just above Big Bar Friday night that caused mandatory evacuations and electricity and telephone outages.

The fire moved quickly, but firefighters said they were prepared. At mid-day Friday, the fire's southern edge was reported to be about a mile and a half from town as firefighters got ready to widen firelines with burnouts.

That evening, a cumulous cloud over the fire caused downdrafts that pushed the blaze southward, said Richard Hadley, fire information



Mike Wade was at his parents' house in Big Bar on Friday. He watched firefighters prepare for a burnout and commented, "They're doing a real good job."

Photo by **PHIL NELSON**

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The Trinity Lake Lions Club is a permittee of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest and is an equal opportunity service provider.

fought fires. "They're doing a real good job," he said.

As of Tuesday, the status of the complexes of fires burning in Trinity County was:

Iron-Alps Complexes

105,123 acres, 90 percent contained overall. The Eagle Fire was 31,844 acres and 90 percent contained. The Buckhorn Fire was 28,439 acres and 55 percent contained. The Carey Fire was 3,698 acres and 80 percent contained. Two new fire starts occurred along Highway 299 on Monday and were quickly contained.

In the first residence lost to the lightning fires in Trinity County, a cabin burned in early August although it had been wrapped with protective foil by the previous management team. It was in a remote area of the Little French Creek Drainage in the Buckhorn Fire area and is believed to have burned around the time of the fatal helicopter crash at the north end of the fire. Firefighters had tried clearing the brushy area around it, but had to pull out, Hadley said.

Lime Complex

64,502 acres, 100 percent contained. Work continues on repair and rehabilitation of burned areas and adjoining roads. Crews are also extinguishing remaining hot spots within 300 feet of the fire perimeter.

Archery season opened Saturday. Portions of the South Fork Management Unit that were closed due to the fires have been re-opened for hunting. Hunters can see maps of the open areas at the Hayfork and Harrison Gulch Ranger Stations.

Yolla Bolly

89,994 acres in Trinity and Tehama counties, 95 percent contained. The mosaic nature of the burn has created a high potential for large areas of burning within firelines.

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