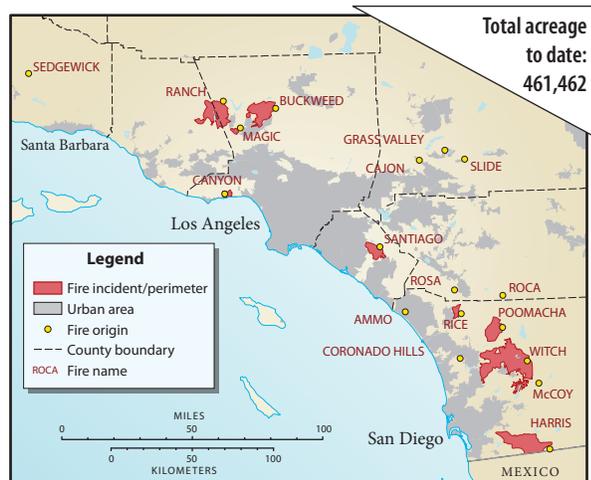


The Fires: Day 4

Wednesday, October 24, 2007



President Bush declared major disaster, for seven counties for Individual Assistance, Public Assistance Categories A and B, and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide.

Predictive Services Morning Report:

With the strong ridge of high pressure over California, temperatures will remain 10-to-20 degrees above normal and minimum humidity will remain in the single digits and teens today. Northeast-to-east winds will be locally 10-to-20 miles per hour with gusts up to 30 miles per hour over the mountains and below the canyons and passes of Southern California this morning. Winds will become light this afternoon over Southern California, with onshore winds over the coastal areas and upslope winds over most foothill and mountain locations.

Today's Events:

As the Santa Ana wind event begins to subside, many of the large fires report moderate fire behavior. However, the anticipated change in wind direction to a more normal onshore flow raises the potential for a new set of dangers. The intense wind speeds caused some fuels to be passed over by rapidly moving fires. This unburned fuel is now vulnerable to re-burn with the reversing winds.

More progress is made on the **Grass Valley Fire** due to a decrease in winds combined with increased relative humidity and effective perimeter control. Fire behavior is limited to creeping and backing fire with short uphill runs. Even with the decrease in erratic fire behavior,

Daily Snapshot

Incident Name	MACS Priority* a.m. / p.m.	Crews	Engines	Dozers	Overhead	Acres**	Contained %
Ammo†	10 / 8	3	15	0	10	10,000	0
Canyon	11 / 0	17	50	3	99	4,500	85
Grass Valley	1 / 1	16	109	3	1,015	1,100	30
Harris	6 / 6	33	149	4	169	75,000	10
Poomacha	3 / 3	24	73	10	67	35,000	10
Ranch	7 / 7	27	60	16	99	54,716	70
Rice	4 / 4	19	112	11	181	9,000	20
Santiago	5 / 5	11	276	4	67	22,000	30
Slide	1 / 1	12	92	2	87	10,800	0
Witch	2 / 2	45	293	22	190	196,240	20
Contained Fires***		41	59	5	168	43,106	100
Totals		248	1,288	80	2,152	461,462	

* Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) priority setting for resource allocation is based on the following criteria: Life Threatening Situations, Real Property Threatened, High Damage Potential, Incident Complexity, Potential for Timely Containment.

** Figures for acreage are cumulative for the incident throughout the siege.

*** When a fire is 100% contained, the fire name is deleted but the acreage burned and additional resources (used in mop-up) is added to the "Contained Fires" section.

† Resource data for Ammo Fire does not include military personnel. Fire was on a Military Reservation. Data used above was extracted from the Incident Status Summary (ICS-209).

Firefighters work shoulder to shoulder as they advance on the blaze that threatens to consume a home in the Wildland Urban Interface.



large-scale evacuations and road closures remain in effect for the surrounding fire area. Damage assessment teams enter the fire area.

The **Slide Fire** reports moderate intensity fire behavior with three-to-six-foot flame lengths; the fire mainly spreading by spotting, group torching and short crown runs. Additional structures are destroyed in Running Springs and Fredalba. A damage assessment team arrives on scene. At 4:30 p.m., the winds shift to the west-northwest and the fire once again threatens the evacuated communities between Running Springs, Snow Valley and Nordic Rim Ski Resort.

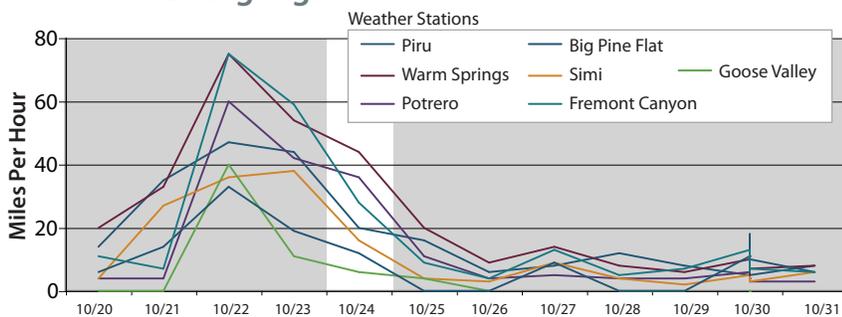
Acreage for the **Witch Fire** remains at 196,420 acres with an estimated 20% containment. Fire progression slows to the west, southwest, and northwest due to improvement in weather and additional resources being assigned to the fire. Winds in the fire area remain variable with coastal influence returning to the valleys. Warm, dry and unstable conditions exist at the higher elevations and the eastern areas of the fire. Fire continues to burn within and around structures with moderate to high intensity. Perimeter growth persists on the eastern side of the fire in mature, heavy brush and brush that resprouted after the 2003 fire siege.

The Poomacha Fire continues to burn close to the north flank of the Witch Incident. Favorable progress on containment is made on the eastern flank. Conditions improve sufficiently to evaluate the return of residents to the communities of Poway, Escondido, Rancho Santa Fe and Rancho Bernardo.

A shift in the wind drives the **Poomacha Fire** in a northeasterly direction resulting in an increase in fire

Peak Wind Speeds: October 20–31, 2007

October 24 highlighted



The Slide Fire experiences group torching and short crown runs today.

California Fire Siege October 24, 2007

- Governor Schwarzenegger announced a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction in a California court of the person or persons responsible for setting the Santiago Fire.

acreage to 35,000. Thirty mile-per-hour winds, long-range spotting and extreme rates of spread occur. Perimeter control is initiated with the arrival of some requested resources. Structure protection remains in place. Visibility to the west is extremely poor, and MAFFS aircraft are able to make only one drop each before sunset.

Valley Center, Rincon, Deer Springs, Pauma Valley, Escondido, Vista, Mt. Palomar Community, Palomar Observatory, and communications towers continue to be threatened. An estimated 50 structures have been destroyed.

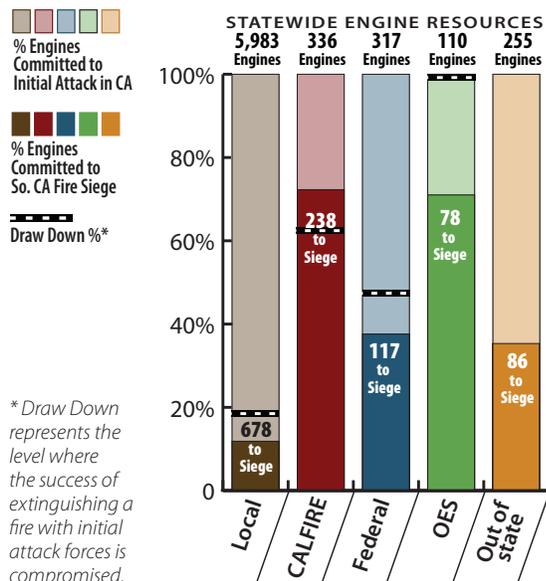
Strong, gusty winds overnight produce rapid rates of spread and frequent spotting on the **Rice Fire**, allowing the fire to become established in the Santa Margarita drainage. However, fire spread slows, experiencing only isolated runs due to a decrease in afternoon winds. Progress is made with perimeter control and structure protection. Evacuation orders remain in effect for Fallbrook and outlying areas with over 45,000 evacuees from the Fallbrook and Deluz area.

On the **Santiago Fire**, changing wind patterns and critical fire weather conditions persist, maintaining severe fire behavior with rapid rates of spread. The fire is very active overnight and additional structures are destroyed in Modjeska Canyon. Significant effort is made to effectively and safely protect assets in the vicinities of Williams Canyon, Modjeska Canyon, and Harding Truck Road. The fire progresses to the northeast. Due to difficult terrain and fire activity, control opportunities in the immediate fire location on the eastern flank are extremely limited. Evacuations are in effect in canyons along Santiago Canyon Road and the communities of Silverado, Modjeska, Trabuco, Live Oak, Williams, Holy Jim and the Cleveland National Forest. The San Onofre/Chino power transmission grid is threatened. The lack of available resources continues to be a concern.

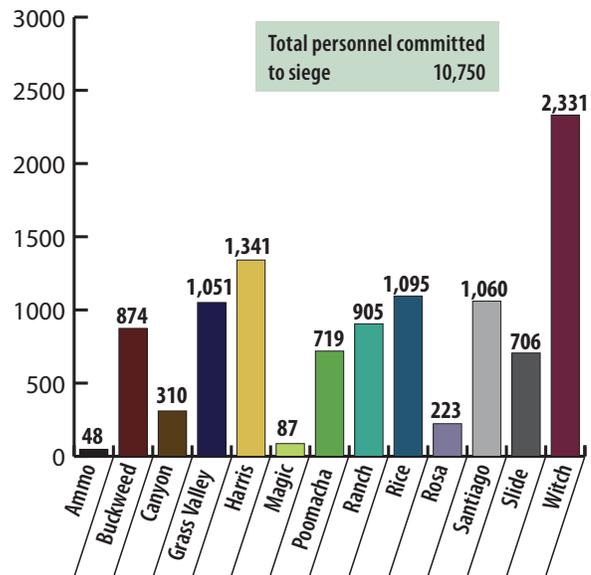
- Amendment No. 1 to FEMA-3279-EM-CA designates the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura for Individual Assistance.

Erratic fire behavior due to changing weather conditions continues to be the norm on the Harris Fire. While east-northeast winds remain active on the eastern portion of the fire, the normal onshore flow begins to influence the western portion. This returning onshore flow moves the fire to the northeast, threatening structures along

Resources Committed: Engines, October 24, 2007



Resources Committed: Personnel, October 24, 2007



Dry fuels and changing winds threaten new areas of the Harris (at left) and other fires.



■ Federal Incident Response Team (FIRST) Atlanta and Task Force San Diego activated to provide situational awareness and support to mission requirements at Qualcomm Stadium.

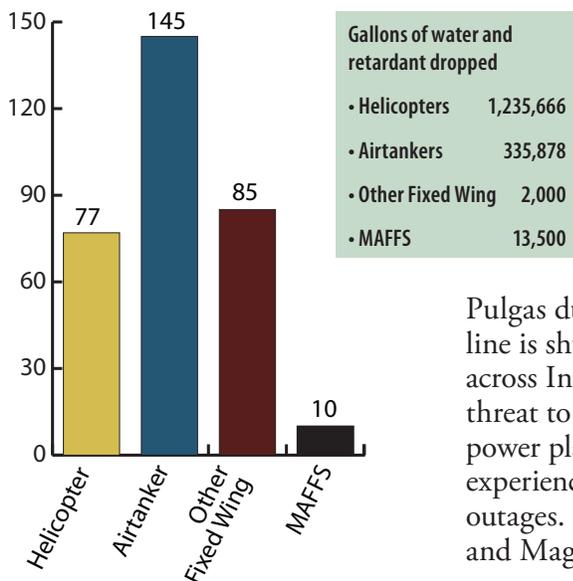
Highway 94 from Jamul to the east and Jamacha to the west. Lyons Peak burns when the fire jumps perimeter control lines, damaging the regional communications equipment and destroying the back-up generator. Crews quickly install a portable repeater to support fire communications. The fire burns north in the Barrett Lake area, consuming old, heavy fuels. With a detailed damage assessment about 55% complete, it is estimated that 1,500 homes have been threatened with 200 of those destroyed or damaged.

Most initial attack resources have been engaged continuously since the beginning of the fire; crew fatigue has become a serious problem. Most resource orders remain unfilled as the demand from incidents in the southern part of the state continues and available resources from out of the region have been drained down. Knowing this, incident commanders make adjustments to mitigate resource shortages

The **Ranch Fire** reports considerably slowing fire spread, with no significant new fire activity. Light winds and extremely dry fuels result in small isolated slope-driven runs in the southwest portion of the fire. The north flank runs into the Day Fire (2006) burn. Good progress is made on the west flank.

Evacuations are lifted in all areas and all roads reopen. A red flag fire weather warning for the Ranch Fire is cancelled at 3:30 p.m. The NASA Ikhana Unmanned Aerial System flight provides thermal intelligence regarding the fire, including perimeter information. Containment is estimated at 70%. Demobilized resources are reassigned to assist other Southern California incidents.

■ Resources Committed: Aircraft, Flight Hours, October 24, 2007



Early morning reports for the **Ammo Fire** show good progress and optimistic predictions. Acreage burned stands at 7,500, with 50% containment. Later in the day, however, the fire escapes containment on the south flank, spreading southeast and parallel to Interstate-5. Because visibility is estimated at only one mile, the MAFFS are diverted to the Poomacha Fire. By evening, the Ammo Fire has grown to 10,000 acres, and is only 10% contained. Interstate-5 southbound is closed at Basilone and northbound at Las

Pulgas due to smoke and downed power lines. The Metro Link Rail line is shut down from milepost 212.3 to milepost 225.3. Fire spots across Interstate-5 into San Onofre State Park although there is no threat to the nearby nuclear power plant. Camp Pendleton experiences sporadic power outages. Both the Buckweed and Magic fires are contained.

■ FEMA Joint Field Office (JFO) established in Pasadena.