

Gap Fire UPDATE

Santa Barbara Ranger District, Los Padres National Forest



Sunday, July 6, 2008, 0700 AM

On the Web: www.inciweb.org, www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres, www.fire.ca.gov, www.countyofsb.org

Fire Information Phone Line: (805) 961-5770 (8:00 am to midnight)

Santa Barbara County Emergency Operations Center (Regarding Evacuations): 805-681-5195

Fire Stats	Resources
Acres burned: 9,367	Crews: 46
Acresage increase (last 12 hours): 673	Engines: 211
Fireline to build: 12 miles	Helicopters: 16
Date started: 07/01/2008 5:45 p.m.	Air Tankers: 6 on order
Percent contained: 28%	Dozers: 22
Expected containment: unknown	Total Personnel Assigned: 1,188
Injuries: 3	
Structures threatened: 3,293	
Structures destroyed: 4	
Suppression cost to date: \$6.2million	

Headlines:

- Some MANDATORY evacuation orders have been changed to evacuation warnings. For more information about the evacuation changes, call 805-681-5195.
- The Forest Service is conducting an investigation with the assistance of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department as to the cause of the Gap Fire. They have established a 24-hour call-in "tip line" at the Los Padres National Forest headquarters to receive information. Please call (805) 961-5710 if you have any information about this fire.

Current Status:

- Fire is burning in 30-50 year old heavy chaparral fuels (15-20 feet tall), in extremely steep and rocky terrain.
- The upslope winds created a challenge in the northwest flank and an evacuation warning was issued last night. Around 3:00 a.m. the fire died down with little movement. Good progress continues in the eastern flank with several hot shot crews cutting line aggressively. Water and retardant drops and dozer lines continue to be dominant in holding the fire on the steep western edge. The black line on the southeast flank is just about completed. The west and northwest flank will remain active. Mop up and patrol continued along the southern flank.

Evacuations:

- While some MANDATORY evacuations remain in effect, others were modified to evacuation WARNINGS. For information regarding the status of these evacuations, please call 805-681-5195.
- An American Red Cross evacuation center has been established at San Marcos High School at 4750 Hollister Avenue, at the intersection of Turnpike Road and Hollister Avenue.
- The Santa Barbara County Animal Services will operate an emergency animal shelter at the Red Cross evacuation center location. Individuals who stay at the evacuation center can bring their household pets (dogs, cats, etc.) to this animal shelter. For further information call 805-681-4332.
- If you are not staying at the Red Cross evacuation center, you can bring your household pets to the Santa Barbara Humane Society at 5399 Overpass Road in Santa Barbara, CA. For further information call 805-964-4777.
- Evacuation of large animals (horses and livestock) is being handled by the Santa Barbara County Animal Services. For further information call 805-681-4332.

Highway, Road and Area Closures:

- All national forest lands south of Highway 154 and East Camino Cielo between Gibraltar Road and Refugio Road are now closed to public entry. The area will remain closed until the Gap Fire is suppressed. The closure prohibits all public entry to national forest lands, trails, roads and recreation sites. The closure does not apply to private land. The closure does not affect Highway 154, East Camino Cielo Road, Gibraltar Road or Refugio Road.
- Road closures can be expected to change regularly due to changing conditions. For information about road closures, please visit the Santa Barbara County website listed above.

Agencies: U.S. Forest Service and Santa Barbara County Fire Department and other cooperators.

Incident Commander: The Northern Rockies National Incident Management Team with Incident Commander Wally Bennett has assumed command of the incident as of 6:00 a.m. this morning.