



Sand Fire July 28, 2016, Morning Update

Fire Information:

Phone: Angeles National Forest 626-574-5208, staffed 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Email: sandfireunified@gmail.com

Web: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4878>

Fire Situation: Last night, firefighters successfully conducted a tactical firing operation on the east side in Pacoima Canyon to keep the fire from spreading east toward North Fork Saddle Station. Today's priority for firefighters and aircraft remains the uncontained east side of the fire. Hotshot crews and firefighters using mechanized equipment, such as dozers, will construct indirect line and direct line where it is safe to do so in the steep terrain of the Pacoima Canyon east of the Magic Mountain Wilderness. The Magic Mountain Wilderness, designated by Congress in 2009, is 12,282 acres within the Angeles National Forest.

With increased perimeter containment, crews will start to repair firelines constructed during the suppression phase. For example, they'll build water bars and berms and scatter branches, rocks, sod, and other natural materials to prevent erosion. Firefighters will also remove trash and excess equipment from the line with assistance from helicopters, which will also be available for water drops as needed.

The fire is 38,346 acres and 65 percent contained. Resources include 214 engines, 59 hand crews, 18 helicopters, 11 water tenders, 35 dozers, and 2,755 personnel. There are two fire camps established in Santa Clarita: the incident command post at Golden Valley High School and a base camp at Central Park.

Weather and Fire Behavior: Today will be another hot, dry day with the temperature reaching the low 100s and the relative humidity dropping into the teens. Southwest winds will be 10–18 mph, gusting up to 25 mph. Fire-behavior analysts expect minimal fire activity today around most of the fire's perimeter. However, they anticipate that interior islands of unburned vegetation will burn, creating smoke that might be visible from surrounding communities.

Closures: The Angeles National Forest issued Forest Order 01-16-05, effective July 28, 2016. The Sand Fire Area, Road, and Trail Closure was established to ensure firefighter and public safety.

Evacuations:

Santa Clarita Valley Ongoing Closures

- Soledad Canyon Road at the 14 Freeway
- Sand Canyon Road south of Placerita Canyon Road

Agua Dulce Ongoing Hard Closures

- Agua Dulce Canyon Road at the 14 Freeway (soft closure, only residents with ID)
- Agua Dulce Canyon Road at Soledad Canyon Road (hard closure—no entry)

Acton Ongoing Hard Closure

- Soledad Canyon Road at Bootlegger Canyon Road

Little Tujunga Hard Closures

- Little Tujunga Canyon Road north of the Wildlife Way Station

Cooperators:

Metrolink will operate full service along the Antelope Valley Line starting this morning. The determination to operate trains along the Antelope Valley Line was made with direction from Sand Fire officials. If conditions change and rail service is once again stopped north of Via Princessa, Metrolink will have buses available to provide alternative service. Riders should monitor Metrolink's website (www.metrolinktrains.com) and Twitter account (@Metrolink) for service updates.

Southern California Edison employees have identified approximately 300 downed poles in the fire area. They will fly today to inventory downed poles and start setting poles tomorrow. Report any lack of power or downed lines by calling 800-655-4555.

Southern California Gas Company has identified 52 gas outages, 19 of which have been restored.

Public health inspectors arrived yesterday and will be testing water quality at several sites.

Sand Fire Unified Command—Southern California Interagency Incident Management Team 3, Los Angeles County Fire, and Los Angeles Sheriff's Department—would like to express its gratitude and appreciation to the Golden Valley High School. By allowing the incident command post to be established on school property, the high school has played an instrumental role in the Sand Fire firefighting efforts. Thank you for graciously hosting and accommodating the firefighters.

The Sand Fire is under unified command with Southern California Interagency Incident Management Team 3 (Incident Commander Mike Wakoski) representing the US Forest Service, Los Angeles County Fire (Deputy Fire Chief John Tripp), and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Sheriff Jim McDonnell). Assisting agencies include Los Angeles Fire Department, California Office of Emergency Services, CAL FIRE, California Highway Patrol, Los Angeles County Public Works, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Southern California Edison, Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control, and American Red Cross.