



## Sand Fire July 31, 2016, Morning Update

### **Fire Information:**

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**Fire Situation:** Firefighters continue to patrol and reinforce the fireline, mopping up any hot spots they detect near the line. Dozer and excavator operators and hand crews are making good progress repairing areas affected by fire-suppression activity. For example, 70 miles of dozer line and 156 miles of hand line around this fire are being repaired. Repair could consist of building waterbars and burms, recontouring on slopes, and scattering vegetation and other natural materials, all to minimize erosion and the visual impacts.

The fire is not active on the north, west, and south sides. Hot spots remaining by the line are scattered only along the southeast side, although the fire is not expected to spread. People who live and travel near the fire area will see smoke. The presence of smoke does not necessarily mean the fire is growing larger. In this fire's footprint, many pockets of unburned vegetation remain well within the perimeter, and they will continue to burn for several days or even weeks. This interior burning does not pose a threat to the contained fire line. Strong gusty winds tested containment lines yesterday and they held.

The fire is 41,432 acres and 93 percent contained. Resources include 42 engines, 24 hand crews, 6 helicopters, 10 water tenders, 7 dozers, and 1,038 personnel. The incident command post is at Golden Valley High School in Santa Clarita.

**Weather:** Today will be slightly cooler with the maximum temperature in the high 80s to low 90s. Monsoonal moisture developing in and around the fire area will increase the relative humidity to a range of 25 to 45 percent. Winds will be from the southwest, gusting to 35 mph. Skies will be partly cloudy this afternoon. The chance of thunderstorms is low (5–10 percent). If storms do develop, the main hazards will be gusty and erratic outflow winds and lightning strikes.

**Closures:** Two road closures are in effect: one at Sand Canyon Road and Placerita Canyon Road going into Bear Divide and one at Little Tujunga Canyon Road north of the Wildlife Way Station. An area, road, and trail closure is in effect on the Angeles National Forest (Order 01-16-05, effective July 28, 2016).

The Sand Fire is under unified command with Southern California Interagency Incident Management Team 3 (Incident Commander Mike Wakoski) and Los Angeles County Fire (Deputy Chief Vince Pena). Assisting agencies include Los Angeles County Sheriff, Los Angeles Fire, 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, Metrolink, Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control, and American Red Cross.