

Brian S. Marshall
Fire Chief & Director of Emergency Services



KERN COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

2601 PANORAMA DRIVE, BUILDING B • BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306 • WWW.KERNCOUNTYFIRE.ORG

TELEPHONE 661-873-2602 • FAX 661-873-2699

DATE: June 30, 2016
CONTACT: Captain Michael Nicholas, Kern EOC Public Information Officer
PHONE: 661-330-0158

ERSKINE FIRE EOC MEDIA UPDATE

June 30, 2016 – Repopulation Effort

All road closures have been lifted.

A Local Assistance Center (LAC) is scheduled to open tomorrow at noon at Wallace Middle School 3240 Erskine Creek Rd. The LAC serves as a one-stop shop for information services on disaster relief, how to replace records lost in the fire, and apply for assistance. The LAC provides a single place for those affected by the fire to receive information on how to start on the road to recovery. State Departments offering services include: DMV, Contractors State License Board, Department of Insurance, Employment Development Department, and Department of Public Health-Vital Records. Various County Agencies and other Non-Profit Organizations will also be present.

A transition center is currently open and will convert to the Local Assistance Center tomorrow at noon. It will be open until 6PM today. The location of the transition center is Wallace Middle School at 3240 Erskine Creek Rd. in Lake Isabella. The local call center at our EOC will be open from 8AM-4PM on Thursday and Friday. Starting Saturday the call center will be open from 10AM-2PM. The number to call is 661-873-2660.

Public Works: In coordination with Kern Regional Transit, a shuttle program has been established to take occupants from both evacuation shelters to the Transition Center and to Kern Valley High School at 3340 Erskine Creek Rd. in Lake Isabella. In coordination with Kern County Fire Department and the Kern High School District, the Sikh Friends of Bakersfield are offering free meals to Erskine fire victims, responders, and volunteers at Kern Valley High School from 11 AM to 5 PM daily.

Four temporary collection sites have been set up to assist residents from the affected areas with disposal of food waste resulting by the prolonged power outage. This service is scheduled to end Friday, July 1, 2016. Lined roll-off containers will be available to

residents from 8AM to 8PM at the following locations: Mtn. Mesa Park, Weldon Southern Baptist Church 20647 Hwy 178, South Lake Car Wash off the Frontage Rd. and Hwy 178, Onyx Store 23822 Hwy 178 and Easy Street. Items accepted at these temporary collection sites include ONLY food waste and other household trash that is placed in bags. Further efforts to address other fire debris will be set up as part of the recovery process.

The Kern County Public Works Department has scheduled a special One Day Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event on **Saturday, July 23, 2016** to target and collect the household hazardous waste from affected properties. Residents living in the areas affected by the Erskine Fire, with household hazardous waste items in need of disposal, can stop by Mt. Mesa Park located at 4361 McCray Road from 9AM to 3PM, Saturday, July 23, 2016. For more information or updates visit the website at www.kerncountywaste.com.

Public Health: Kern County Public Health has 4 teams assessing water wells impacted by the fire. The Department urges residents in the area to be cautious about open water wells that can present a potential fall hazard and are also open to environmental contamination.

Kern County Public Health and the State of California will be offering a debris cleanup assistance program for all those residences affected by the Erskine Fire. The purpose of this program is to assist in getting your property clean, safe, and ready for rebuild. As soon as more information is available, residents will be able to sign up for the program. Residents are invited to attend a community meeting to learn about this program on Wednesday July 6th at 6:00pm at Woodrow Wallace Elementary.

Utilities: Currently, slightly more than 200 customers remain without power. To date, SCE has restored power to a total of approximately 2,900 customers who were affected. SCE continues to work on restoration efforts, having replaced more than 150 distribution and transmission poles that were damaged in the fire. SCE reminds customers that brief electric service interruptions are possible over the next several days due to ongoing infrastructure repair and replacement activities.

Amerigas Propane wants to encourage customers returning to their homes to call their energy provider prior to turning their system back on, if their system was turned off, or if they have had any interruption of service. Amerigas Propane will waive the leak check fee for all Amerigas Propane customers in areas affected by the fire.

Donations: For the most up to date information on where to receive or donate goods, please contact our call center at 661-873-2660. For a list of donation sites where items are available for distribution please visit our website at www.kerncountyfire.org.

Monetary donations are being encouraged for the local chapter of the Red Cross and for the United Way of Kern County. Animal related donations should be directed to Lake Isabella County Animal Shelter at 14891 Hwy 178 Monday-Friday from 8AM-5PM.

Do not send donations to the emergency shelters.

Non-monetary donations (non-food) in Bakersfield should be directed to Good Will locations throughout the county between 8AM-5PM. The Elks Lodge at 7608 Wofford Blvd in Wofford Heights in conjunction with the Salvation Army is also accepting non-monetary donations.

The following list of non-food donations are needed. Diapers and wipes, non-perishable food, paper towels, plastic cutlery, can openers, blankets, towels, wash cloths, sleeping bags, and NEW underwear. In general, due to the generosity of the community, donations of used goods and used clothes are no longer necessary at this time.

Non-perishable food donations should be directed to the Lake Isabella Food Pantry at 4621 Lake Isabella Blvd attention Steve or Phillis. Donations here are accepted 24/7. They need food that can make a meal such as canned chili, canned ravioli, canned soup, hamburger helper, etc.

We appreciate your cooperation and patience as new information is acquired and repopulation efforts continue.