



PRESS RELEASE **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

EVACUATIONS LIFTED FOR MOUNTAIN AREAS

Friday, August 12, 2016 8:45 a.m.

On Scene Contact Information: Marc Peebles (909) 855-7794
Fire Information Line: (909) 383-5688

Effective Friday, August 12, 2016, at 9:00 a.m., all evacuation orders and advisories for the mountain communities affected by the Pilot Fire will be lifted.

Highway 173 will be closed between Grass Valley Road and Rock Camp, and all previously closed forest roads shall be restricted to fire traffic to support ongoing suppression and rehabilitation operations.

We ask that residents returning to the evacuation zone exercise caution. Firefighters, engines, and heavy equipment continue to operate in the area. The San Bernardino County Sheriff shall continue enhanced patrols through these areas with four additional 2-deputy units.

Incident Command has based its decision on the effectiveness of containment lines and decreased fire activity throughout the Pilot Fire. Yesterday's tactical firing operation, while producing significant smoke and visible flames, was instrumental in reducing the threat to the mountain communities and decreasing the time residents were kept from their homes.

Incident Commanders wish to thank the residents of Deer Lodge Park and north Lake Arrowhead for their patience and understanding during the past few days while firefighters and law enforcement protected their communities.

WELCOME HOME!!!

Mike Wakoski, Incident Commander, SCIIMT3
Kathleen Opliger, Incident Commander, San Bernardino County Fire
Shane Littlefield, Incident Commander, CalFire
Shannon Dicus, Incident Commander, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department