



# APPLE FIRE

## AUGUST 11, 2020 Morning UPDATE

**Public Information Phone:** 310-749-2443 (new number)  
**Media Information Phone:** 213-503-4286  
**Incident E-mail:** 2020.apple@firenet.gov  
**Incident Website:** inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6902/

**San Bernardino National Forest:**  
[www.fs.usda.gov/sbnf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sbnf)  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/SanBernardinoNF/](https://facebook.com/SanBernardinoNF/)  
**Twitter:** [twitter.com/sanbernardinof](https://twitter.com/sanbernardinof)  
**CAL FIRE Riverside County Fire Department:**  
[www.rvcfire.org](http://www.rvcfire.org)

### Incident Information:

|                                    |                          |                            |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Start / Report Date: July 31, 2020 | Size: 33,234 acres       | Homes destroyed: 4         |
| Cause: Human Caused                | Location: Banning Canyon | Percent contained: 55%     |
| Fuels Involved: Chaparral & Brush  | Injuries: 3              | Strategy: Full Suppression |

### Resources:

|                |                   |                        |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Hand Crews: 32 | Helicopters: 17   | Total Personnel: 1,719 |
| Engines: 102   | Fixed wing: 2     |                        |
| Dozers: 8      | Water Tenders: 19 |                        |

### Current Situation:

Containment continues to improve—reaching 55% overnight. As crews fortify control lines and fire progression diminishes, operations will be transitioning from 24-hour shifts to day shift only tomorrow. To the north, there is some potential for rollout—large burning logs or debris rolling across the fire’s edge and downslope. However, if rollout occurs, the fire would not spread. It would burn back up the slope and towards the perimeter, not away from it.

Warm, dry, and windy conditions are expected today and Wednesday. This morning, winds could reach up to 45 mph along ridgetops. With relative humidity decreasing and temperatures increasing, hotspots are expected to pop up along the southern portion of the fire’s edge. Smoke may still be visible, and firefighters will continue to patrol this area.

With the focus now in areas that are more difficult to access by foot, crews must shift their firefighting tactics. Helicopters will support operations today by transporting firefighters who will rappel down to the fireline in a remote area to the north. Additionally, the helicopters will serve as crew shuttles.

The Apple Fire has burned 7,249 acres of the San Gorgonio Wilderness. In this roadless area, firefighters implement Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) to strengthen control lines. These crews utilize the expertise of resource advisors to identify locations and techniques for firefighting activities with a “light on the land” approach. Resource advisors use their knowledge of natural and cultural resource management, as well

as fire and fire suppression, to provide recommendations for implementing MIST. In many cases, resource advisors are also trained wildland firefighters.

### **Evacuations / Closures:**

The Evacuation Warning for all of Morongo Valley in San Bernardino County was lifted yesterday afternoon. There are no remaining Evacuation Warnings in effect.

One easy and potentially life-saving task that all residents can do right now is to sign up for the emergency alerts system in their county. These systems help public safety officials to provide critical updates, such as evacuation notifications, as quickly as possible.

### **San Bernardino Residents**

Telephone Emergency Notification System  
<http://www.sbcounty.gov/SBCFire/TENS/TENSContact.aspx>

### **Riverside County Residents**

RivCoReady  
[www.rivcoready.org](http://www.rivcoready.org)

The **San Gorgonio Wilderness** is closed to all use. An Emergency Forest Closure Order is in effect as of August 2, 2020. The order prohibits all entry into the San Gorgonio Wilderness and some adjacent areas. Additionally, all Forest Service recreation areas in the Forest Falls area are closed. Fire restrictions have increased across the San Bernardino National Forest. Please refer to the Forest web page at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sbnf> for additional details.

The **Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail**: Due to closures in both the San Bernardino National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management, the PCT is closed to all traffic between the Cottonwood Trailhead, near the community of San Gorgonio and Forest Road 1N01 (Pipes Canyon Road).

**Smoke Advisory:** Smoke from the Apple Fire has impacted communities to the east. Unhealthful air quality can result in the exacerbation of some medical issues, especially lung problems. Residents with medical issues affected by smoke are encouraged to stay indoors and avoid strenuous activity in smoky conditions.

**Donations:** Two Apple Fire camps have been established. The camps are essentially small cities that include sleeping areas, a business area and a large kitchen that provides all assigned personnel three meals per day. Area residents who wish to make food donations are encouraged to contribute to local food pantries.

**Cooperating and Assisting Organizations:** Riverside County Emergency Management Department, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Riverside County Sheriffs, San Bernardino County Sheriffs, San Bernardino County Fire, California Highway Patrol and Southern California Edison.

**Safety Message:** During the 2020 fire year, the most important thing that the public can do is work to prevent human-caused fires. From following fire restrictions to talking to neighbors about defensible space around their homes, individual actions can reduce the number and impact of human-caused fires. Additionally, these efforts can preserve firefighting resources, reduce the need for firefighters to move throughout the country, and minimize exposure to and transmission of COVID-19 among incident personnel and communities served.

There is a temporary flight restriction over the fire and vicinity. It is illegal to fly drones within the restricted area. Remember, "When you fly, we can't".

A Burned Area Emergency Response team Inciweb page has been created for the incident:  
<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6939/>