



Soberanes Fire
Los Padres National Forest
August 30, 2016



DAILY UPDATE

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<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4888/>

Incident: The Soberanes Fire is burning in the Los Padres National Forest, Ventana Wilderness, Monterey County, CA. The fire was started by an illegal campfire on July 22, 2016, in Garrapata State Park.

Agency Jurisdiction: CAL FIRE San Benito-Monterey Unit/Los Padres National Forest

Current Size: 93,245 acres (56,051 acres CA-LPF, 37,194 acres CAL FIRE)

Containment: 60% **Cause:** Illegal campfire **Injuries:** 1 fatality, 4 injuries

Structures Destroyed: 57 homes, 11 outbuildings **Structures Threatened:** 410

Current Resources: Crews: 23 **Engines:** 62 **Helicopters:** 13 **Dozers:** 6 **Water Tenders:** 4

Total Personnel: 1248

Incident Command: Alaska Interagency Incident Management Team, Tom Kurth Incident Commander. The incident is no longer in unified command with Cal Fire, though many Cal Fire resources are still being utilized.

Current Situation: Fire managers on Monday continued to mobilize resources and strategize for expected high winds in the Big Sur area late Monday night and Tuesday. Managers moved additional resources in the Big Sur area in anticipation of the winds.

There was increased fire activity Monday on the southwest side of the fire primarily due to intensified winds and a drop in relative humidity. For the second straight day, fire spread on the south slope above the Carmel River in the vicinity of Sulphur Springs Camp. Water drops from aircraft were utilized to limit further spread of the fire east of the Carmel River drainage. Fire continued to be active in the South Fork Big Sur River drainage and Mocho Creek that feeds it on the southern edge of the fire.

Structure protection actions along Partington Ridge south of Big Sur continued. Managers also reviewed and updated aerial ignition plans to ensure all necessary support is in place if that action becomes necessary.

Evacuation Orders and Warnings: An evacuation warning was issued effective 6 p.m. Sunday, August 28 for a small section of Monterey County along the Pacific Coast Highway bounded on the north by Castro Canyon, on the south by the Julie Pfeiffer Burns State Park, on the east by North Coast Ridge Rd, and on the west by Highway 1. An evacuation warning remains in place for Tassajara Road from Carmel Valley Road to the Tassajara Hot Springs Zen Center. An evacuation order remains in effect for North Coast Ridge Rd. from mile marker 1.5 to Marble Peak at the end of the road.

Fire Restrictions: [Forest Order 05-07-16-15 Fire Use Restrictions](#) - **Level IV Fire Restrictions.** This Order is effective from August 23, 2016, through the end of the official 2016 fire season.

Defensible Space: The best action homeowners can take to protect their property from wildfire is to create defensible space around their homes or cabins. This allows firefighters to take advantage of extra room to

operate equipment to safely reach and extinguish any active fire when they check your home after the fire passes. For more information on getting a home assessment contact your local Cal Fire station. Other tips and information is available on www.firewise.org.

Wilderness Tactics: To reduce the impacts associated with fire suppression activities in wilderness areas, fire managers and firefighting crews continue using Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) as much as possible. The steep, rugged terrain of the Ventana Wilderness is treacherous to firefighters. Most direct fireline is being constructed near the perimeter in areas that have been pretreated and supported by aircraft.

US Forest Service Road and Trail Closures: A forest closure order has been implemented to close the trails and roads within the Los Padres National Forest, Monterey Ranger District pursuant to USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a). The order prohibits going into or being upon National Forest System lands within the Soberanes Fire area. For a complete list of closures please visit: www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf. The following sites are open: Pfeiffer Beach Day Use, Mill Creek Day Use, Willow Creek Day Use, Sand Dollar Day Use, Kirk Creek Campground, Nacimiento Campground, Ponderosa Campground and Plaskett Creek Campground.

California State Park Closures: Point Sur Light Station State Historic Park is open and guided tours will resume today. Go to www.pointsur.org for more information. Portions of Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park including the McWay Falls trail have opened. All lands and trails east of the parking lot and the campground remain closed. The Big Sur Lodge is open, however, Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park Day Use and Campgrounds remain closed. Go to www.bigsurlodge.com for more information. The following park units remain closed: Andrew Molera State Park -All park lands closed to public entry; Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park – All park lands except the Big Sur Lodge closed to public entry; Garrapata State Park – All park lands east of Hwy 1 closed to public entry.

Donations: Local relief efforts to the fire victims have been provided by the [Coast Property Owners Association \(CPOA\)](#) and the [Community Foundation for Monterey County](#). Donations can be made to the CPOA at Coast Property Owners Association, PO Box 59, Big Sur, CA 93920 or the Community Foundation for Monterey County, 2354 Garden Road, Monterey, CA 93940 (831)375-9712. The Red Cross prepares for, responds to, and helps people recover from disasters big and small. For any unmet disaster related needs, please call their 24 hour hotline at 1-866-272-2237.

Additional Cooperating and Assisting Organizations: California State Parks and Recreation, California Highway Patrol, California Office of Emergency Services, California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation, California National Guard, Big Sur Land Trust, SPCA of Monterey County, California Department of Transportation, California National Guard, California Fish & Wildlife, Coast Property Owners Association (CPOA), Community Foundation for Monterey County, Bureau of Land Management, American Red Cross, County of Monterey, Pacific Gas and Electric, Carmel Highlands F.P.D., Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District, Mid Coast Volunteer Fire Brigade, Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade and the Cachagua F.P.D.

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