



Estimated Containment Date Change for Soberanes Fire



**For immediate release:
Sept. 29, 2016**

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The estimated containment date for the Soberanes Fire has been adjusted to October 15. The fire has been burning in Monterey County since July 22, that was started by an illegal campfire in the Garrapata State Park. Incident managers adjusted the date after a thorough evaluation of the fire and projected weather conditions. The containment date was previously estimated for September 30.

Here are facts about the fire and the conditions affecting the fire's containment.

Current Situation – Change in Containment Date

- Fire containment dates are always an estimate.
- Current favorable weather changes and decreased fire behavior have allowed the incident managers to make significant progress on containing the fire; containment is up from 52% two weeks ago to 92% today.
- The favorable weather conditions and decreased winds have mitigated and reduced fire behavior. This is allowing firefighters to safely access the fire's perimeter. The change to direct attack of the fire will reduce the estimated total to 135,500 acres – a reduction of 46,000 acres.
- Firefighters have completed a containment line around 168 miles of the fire perimeter. Construction of an additional 14 miles of line will fully contain the fire. This is estimated to take an additional two weeks beyond the initial September 30 estimated containment date.
- As containment grows and fewer resources are needed, Fire Incident Managers are reducing logistical resources. On Wednesday, the Fort Hunter Liggett camp was closed, and the Andrew Molera State Park camp was demobilized from a full camp to a minor support camp (showers and sleeping facilities to reduce drive times). Two fire camps remain. Costs will be lessened as resources are reduced.

Post-Containment:

- Even after 100 percent containment is achieved, the Soberanes Fire will continue to burn in isolated pockets inside of the containment lines until a "season ending" rain occurs, likely in December. Firefighters will continue to monitor the contained fire and be prepared to attack any flare-ups until the fire is fully controlled (no active fire is inside of the containment line).
- Once the fire is fully contained, the public may still see smoke due to isolated pockets of fuel burning on the interior of the contained fire in the Ventana Wilderness. However, due to the remoteness of the wilderness and the decreased amount of fire, smoke impacts will be reduced.

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