



SOBERANES FIRE

DAILY UPDATE: OCTOBER 7, 2016



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

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

Incident Command: Central Coast Interagency Incident Management Team, Van Arroyo, Incident Commander.

Current Size: 132,100 acres (94,906 acres Los Padres National Forest; 37,194 acres CAL FIRE)

Containment: 98% **Personnel:** 847 **Cause:** Illegal campfire **Injuries:** 1 fatality, 10 injuries

Structures Destroyed: 57 homes, 11 outbuildings **Structures Threatened:** 20

Crews: 11, **Engines:** 20, **Helicopters:** 9, **Dozers:** 7, **Water Tenders:** 31

Current Situation:

On Thursday, firefighters continued suppression repair work around nearly the entire 182-mile-long perimeter of the Soberanes Fire. Crews are dispersing brush on fire and contingency lines to minimize erosion, building berms to divert water from the lines, and chipping brush that was cleared during line construction.

Archeologists, hydrologists and engineers are helping direct the repairs to ensure that roads and fire lines can withstand winter weather.

Crew also worked to secure containment lines and extinguish hot spots as temperatures begin to warm and conditions become dryer. A high-pressure ridge building over the fire area is expected to push temperatures into the low-70s on ridgetops on the weekend, with relative humidity dropping as low as 2 percent. Such conditions, which have historically supported growth of large fires, will test fire lines over the next few days until a cooling trend begins early next week.

Two areas of the fire continue to burn in steep and inaccessible terrain where firefighters cannot safely work. The North Fork of Big Sur Creek and the area from Bear Basin west to Ventana Cone will likely burn until extinguished by season-ending rains or snow. Fire managers are monitoring these areas using helicopters with infrared technology that detects heat emission. Expect to continue to see smoke from these areas and from persistent smoldering spots further inside the fire perimeter.

Firefighters and personnel from a private towing company will today attempt to extract a water tender that crashed down a steep embankment along the North Coast Ridge Road last month. The driver of the water tender was seriously injured in the accident, but has been released from hospital. Engines will stand by in case sparks are produced.

The Monterey Ranger District of the Los Padres National Forest remains closed to the public. California Highway 1 is open through Big Sur from Monterey to San Luis Obispo.

For more information, visit: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4888/> or follow us at <http://www.facebook.com/LosPadresNationalForest> or www.twitter.com/LosPadresNF.