



U.S. Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
Los Padres National Forest
6750 Navigator Way
Goleta, California 93117

Thomas Fire Update



NOTE: This will be the last evening update for the Thomas Fire. Daily morning updates will continue.

December 23, 2017 7:30PM

Start Date: December 4, 2017 **Cause:** Under Investigation **Size:** 273,400 acres

Containment: 78% **Personnel:** 1,573 **Structures Destroyed:** 1,063 **Structures Damaged:** 280

Current Situation: The front country fire perimeter is secure. Firefighters are building upon previous gains by securing established containment lines adjacent to communities and other infrastructure. Mop up operations along the fire perimeter and active patrol are ongoing. Repair work is underway to mitigate impacts from fire suppression activity. Firefighting crews and aircraft remain available to address flare-ups or new fire starts in the area.

Strategic firing operations on the northern flank of the fire were completed yesterday and no more are planned. Smoke seen today near Tule Creek was from a hotspot that flared up well within the interior of the burned area and it posed no threat to the fire line. Some heat remains in the Bear Heaven area. Air support with water drops are being used due to steep, rugged terrain with limited access.

Residents and visitors to Santa Barbara and Ventura counties may see an increase in wildlife in local communities due to displacement from the fire. Individuals who encounter these displaced animals are encouraged to maintain a safe distance, refrain from feeding them, and if a threat to humans is perceived call 911 (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/living-with-wildlife>).

Fire Weather: Wind: Less than 10 mph. Temp: Highs in the 60s to low 70s. Humidity: 5-10%.

Closures: Sr33/Fairview Rd. is closed. Portions of Los Padres National Forest remain closed. Download the [closure order](#) and [map](#) on the Los Padres National Forest web page.

Evacuations: There are currently no *mandatory evacuation orders* in effect. Residents on Highway 33 between Rose Valley north to Hartman Ranch remain under a *voluntary evacuation warning* due to fire activity in the nearby areas.

Air Quality: Smoke may be visible at times due to interior hotspots that come to life as dry weather conditions persist. Smoke and ashfall from these flare-ups may occur in some areas such as Rose Valley and Ojai. An updated air quality report may be found at <http://www.ourair.org> or <http://www.vcapcd.org>

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InciWeb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5670/>

Thomas Fire Info: 805.826.1357 * *Santa Barbara County Fire Info Line:* 800.400.1572

Ventura County Fire Information Line: 805.465.6650 * *Media Line:* 925.588.6904