

Dolan Fire



Update

AUGUST 23, 2020 8:00 AM

Public Information Phone: (831) 272-0222

Media Information Phone: (831) 272-0221

Incident E-mail: 2020.Dolan@firenet.gov

Incident Website: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7018

Los Padres National Forest: www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf

Facebook: facebook.com/lospadresnationalforest

Twitter: twitter.com/LosPadresNF

Big Sur FD: bigsurfire.org/

Incident Information:

Start / Report Date: Aug. 18, 2020

Cause: Unknown

Fuels Involved: Chaparral, Brush,
Timber understory

Size: 19,287

Location: Hwy 1(MM32.20) N of
Limekiln State Park, 10 miles S of
Big Sur

Containment: 10%

Injuries: 0

Resources:

Hand Crews: 8

Engines: 31

Dozers: 6

Helicopters: 4

Fixed wing: 1

Water Tenders: 6

Total Personnel: 488

Current Situation:

A Red Flag Warning is in effect today till 5:00 p.m. due to the combination of strong winds, low relative humidity and warm temperatures that will contribute to extreme fire behavior. Thunderstorms with little to no precipitation are possible and will be accompanied by erratic and gusty outflow winds between 30 and 65 mph across the fire area.

The fire remained active overnight, primarily with backing fire. Fire activity moderated in the early morning hours as humidity increased. Crews continued to focus on point protection operations around Hermitage and Lucia to the South and Partington Ridge and Anderson Peak communications infrastructure to the North. The community of South Coast was secured.

An infrared equipped aircraft flew a mapping flight over the fire yesterday afternoon. This data was used to revise the perimeter and was the primary reason for the increase in acreage.

Today, operations will continue to focus on point protection as well as scouting for locations to build direct and indirect fire line using both heavy equipment and hand crews. Crews will also be checking the North Coast Ridge Road and working out any hotspots near the road. As the fire continues to burn along the eastern side of Highway 1, engines and crews continue will patrol and extinguish spot fires that are occurring across the highway. Winds are predicted to shift from predominantly north northwest to south southeast. This change in wind direction will shift the area of highest fire activity from the south end to the north end of the Dolan Fire.

Smoke will continue to impact air operations around the fire, limiting aircraft availability and effectiveness. When air quality and visibility improve, aviation assets including helicopters, will support crews on the ground.

The incident management team will be moving into a new incident command post today at Big Sur Pfeiffer State Park. The move is expected to take most of the day so there will not be a Facebook Live meeting. Information for the next Facebook Live meeting will be posted on Inciweb and shared through our daily update.

The fire is threatening the communities of Hermitage, Partington Ridge, and Lucia. Multiple businesses, communications sites, parks and recreational sites are also threatened. Among natural resources threatened are the Ventana Wilderness and coastal watershed and habitat for threatened and endangered species, including the California condor.

Fire activity in the western United States has caused a high demand for fire personnel and equipment. The nation is in [Preparedness Level 5](#) (PL5), the highest level. In PL5 over 80% of the nation's incident management teams and wildland firefighting personnel are committed to incidents. Resource orders are being prioritized to fires across California and the west. Acreage reported here is an estimate and will be updated when IR images are available.

Carmel Fire Info: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2020/8/18/carmel-fire/>

River Fire Info: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2020/8/16/river-fire/>

Updates and Meetings: Fire Information is producing two daily written updates. To request an update, email 2020.dolan@firenet.gov and provide your email address. A daily video update will be posted to the Los Padres National Forest Facebook page and Inciweb (See links in header).

Weather: A Red Flag Warning is in effect over the fire area for thunderstorms, dry lightning and gusty outflow winds.

Evacuations / Closures: Click [here](#) for an interactive map of Monterey County evacuations. The closure of Highway 1 has changed. The highway is now closed near mile marker 38/Troy Canyon on the north and Hermitage on the south.

Smoke: The Monterey Bay Air Resources District has issued a [Wildfire Air Quality Advisory](#). When the concentration of smoke has reached UNHEALTHY levels of the AQI, residents should limit their activity by staying indoors with the doors and windows closed to avoid breathing smoke. Updates on the current air quality forecast and Air Monitoring data can be found at <http://air.mbard.org/>.

Alert Monterey County: To receive emergency notifications regarding evacuations and critical events in Monterey County please sign up for A!ert Monterey County at the following website.
<https://member.everbridge.net/453003085611217/login>

Cooperating and Assisting Organizations: National Weather Service, California Highway Patrol, Monterey County Sheriff's Department, Big Sur Volunteers, Cal Trans, California State Parks, OES, Ventana Wilderness Alliance

Safety Message: This will be a long duration event. Residents in the affected area are encouraged to continue to prepare for the possibility of fire in their area in advance. Go to <https://www.ready.gov/wildfires> to learn how to prepare.