



Las Conchas Fire Update

For Immediate Release: June 30, 2011, 8:30 a.m.

Fire Information: 505-428-7735 or 505-216-2685 (Daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.)

Website Info: www.inciweb.org or www.nmfireinfo.com

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/NMFireInfo/lasconchasfire>

Date Started: 1 p.m., 6/26/2011

Location: Approximately 12 miles southwest of Los Alamos off NM 4 at mile marker 35

Cause: Unknown – under investigation

Size: approximately 92,735 acres

Percent Contained: 3%

Number of Personnel: Approximately 752 personnel including seven hotshot crews and 14 handcrews.

Fuels: Mixed Conifer, Ponderosa Pine. Fuel moisture is extremely low.

Equipment: Four dozers and 28 engines

Aircraft: Five helicopters

Residences: 13 destroyed and 3 damaged

Commercial Property: 3 damaged

Other structures: 2 destroyed

- Media should call (505) 428-7739 or (813) 984-3871 to coordinate interviews.
- For information regarding evacuations or information regarding the Los Alamos National Laboratory, please call (505) 820-1226.

Community Meetings

Los Alamos County will host daily public meetings at 2 p.m. at the White Rock Baptist Church until further notice.

- **Thursday, June 30:**
 - 5 p.m. at the Senior Center, One Kee Street, Santa Clara Pueblo.

Overview

Area Command Team 1 (Dan Oltrogge, Area Commander) is now managing the Las Conchas and Pacheco Fires. Los Conchas firefighting efforts are divided into two zones: Rienarz's Type 1 Incident Management Team (IMT) is managing the north zone of the fire and Hughes' Type 1 IMT is managing the south zone. Despite increased humidity, crews are dealing with extremely dry fuels and potential threats from thunderstorms and dry lightning strikes.

Fire Update

North – Firefighters are monitoring long-range spotting, which have been seen as far north as the Santa Clara Pueblo. Firefighters will also be dealing with unfavorable winds which may result in extreme fire behavior and continue to push the fire to the north. Firefighters will continue scouting for potential fire line and burnout opportunities to prevent the fire from spreading.

East – Firefighters will work the fire line along the NM Hwy 4 through Bandelier National Monument. Firefighters are working with the Los Alamos National Laboratory to prevent the fire from spreading on to the lab along the eastern perimeter down toward the southern edge of the fire. Firefighters are also creating and implementing structure protection plans for the Pajarito Ski Area and the Bandelier National Monument, as well as coordinating with the Los Alamos Fire Department.

South – Firefighting efforts in this area are supported with favorable winds and lighter fuel types. Today firefighters will be looking for opportunities to check fire spread along the Sanchez and Medio canyons.

West – Firefighters will continue to monitor the northwest side along NM Hwy 4. Favorable winds are helping firefighting efforts in this area.

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Current Evacuations:

City of Los Alamos - The acting Los Alamos County Administrator issued an evacuation order for the city of Los Alamos. The Cities of Gold hotel in Pojoaque is offering shelter services for evacuating residents of Los Alamos. Los Alamos evacuees are advised against sheltering in White Rock, although White Rock is not at risk. White Rock is currently under a voluntary evacuation.

The Santa Fe Animal Shelter and Humane Society and the Espanola Valley Humane Society will be taking in dogs, cats, and other small household pets to help those displaced by the Las Conchas Fire. They are also collecting names for those willing to host animals. For more information, please contact: Santa Fe (503) 983-4309, or Espanola (505) 753-8662.

The American Red Cross in New Mexico activated two official shelters in northern New Mexico: the Santa Claran Hotel & Casino in Espanola and the Cities of Gold Casino near Santa Fe. For more information, please contact the American Red Cross at (505) 265-8514 or 800-560-2302.

Closures

NM Hwy 4 is closed at the Jemez Falls Campground and at NM Hwy 501. NM Hwy 502 westbound into Los Alamos is closed to all motorists. Access is controlled and limited to official traffic until further notification.

The Santa Fe National Forest and Valles Caldera National Preserve will close the majority of the Forest and Preserve to all public access starting Thursday, June 30, 2011. The Coyote and Cuba Ranger Districts North of NM Hwy 96 and West of NM Hwy 550 will remain open.

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish properties/recreation sites within Pecos Canyon will be closed. Those recreation sites include: Bert Clancey, Terrero, Jamie Koch, Mora River and Monastery Lake.

New Mexico State Parks has closed Hyde Memorial, Fenton Lake, Morphy Lake, Coyote Creek, and Cimarron Canyon State Parks due to extreme fire danger until further notice.

The Bureau of Land Management's Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument is closed to the public. The monument isn't currently threatened, but the road to the monument will be used by firefighters to access the southern flank of the fire.

Bandelier National Monument is closed indefinitely.

For more information on current fire restrictions and closures on public lands in New Mexico and Arizona, call [1-877-864-6985](tel:1-877-864-6985) or visit www.nmfireinfo.com.

The Los Alamos National Laboratory will be closed due to the fire. All laboratory facilities will be closed for all activities, and nonessential employees are directed to remain off site. Employees that are considered nonessential should not report to work unless specifically directed by their line managers. Employees should check local news sources, the LANL Update Hotline (505) 667-6622 and the LANL web page www.lanl.gov for updates. All radioactive and hazardous material is appropriately accounted for and protected. LANL staff is coordinating the on-site response and supporting the county and federal fire response.

Safety Message

The wildfire and burnout operations will continue to produce heavy smoke. Residents with respiratory problems in the path of smoke may want to consider relocating temporarily until smoke dissipates. Motorists should exercise caution due to reduced visibility. For more information on smoke and your health, please visit <http://nmfireinfo.wordpress.com/smoke-management/>.