



Las Conchas Fire North Zone Fire Update

For Immediate Release: June 30, 2011, 10:30 p.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>

Total Fire Summary	
Date Started: 1 p.m., 6/26/2011	Number of personnel: Approximately 1,201 personnel including six hotshot crews and 25 handcrews.
Location: Approximately 12 miles southwest of Los Alamos off NM 4 at mile marker 35	Fuels: Mixed Conifer, Ponderosa Pine. Fuel moisture is extremely low.
Cause: Unknown – under investigation	Equipment: Four dozers and 52 engines
Size: approximately 93,678	Aircraft: Nine helicopters
Percent Contained: 3%	

- 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.

- **Friday, July 1:**
 - 6 p.m. at the Madonna Parish Hall in Jemez Springs
 - 6 p.m. at the Santa Claran Hotel and Casino in Espanola. The meeting will be in a large room at the hotel, NOT at the Red Cross evacuation center. People can call the hotel for additional information (505) 367-4900.

Overview

Area Command Team 1 (Dan Oltrogge, Area Commander) is now managing overall efforts for the Las Conchas and Pacheco Fires. Los Conchas firefighting efforts are divided into two zones: Reinartz'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. Increased humidity helped firefighters today build and maintain fire lines.

North Zone Fire Update

Today short runs with spotting less than 1 mile occurred on the north head of fire. Continued backing and flanking fire occurred on the east and west flanks.

North – Firefighters monitored long-range spotting. The fire moved northeast past NM Hwy 144 and spread into parts of the Cerro Grande burn area. Tomorrow firefighters will continue to focus their efforts in this area scouting for potential fire line and burnout opportunities.

East – Mop up efforts along NM Hwy 501 proved successful today. Firefighters will continue burnout operations along the Pajarito Ski Area to reduce the likelihood for spotting. Firefighters continued structural protection for the Pajarito Ski Area and the Bandelier National Monument in coordination with the Los Alamos Fire Department.

Southside of north zone – Today firefighters worked along the Frijoles Canyon and Alamo Canyon.

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West – Firefighters maintained the fire line along NM Hwy 4. Favorable winds have helped firefighting efforts in this area.

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 County officials are beginning to work on a plan to recall County employees in preparing to re-open the town site in the near future. No date for re-opening the town site to the general public has been announced yet.

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 closed the majority of the Forest and Preserve to all public access. 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.

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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/>.