

Dolan Fire



Update

August 27, 2020 Morning

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: <https://bigsurfire.org/>

Incident Information:

Start / Report Date: Aug. 18, 2020

Cause: Unknown

Fuels Involved: Chaparral, Brush,
Timber understory

Size: 21,861

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

Containment: 15%

Injuries: 0

Resources:

Hand Crews: 13

Engines: 70

Dozers: 10

Helicopters: 7

Water Tenders: 14

Total Personnel: 951

Current Situation:

Last night, crews worked to stay ahead of the fire and are optimistic that the control lines will be successful for protection of the communities. Crews actively monitored the fire progression, particularly north of McWay Ridge, and took advantage of night-time conditions to strategically reinforce control lines and monitor yesterday's slop-over on the north side of McWay ridge. Crews also worked to reinforce lines on North Coast Ridge as this ridge is critical to holding the fire west of the wilderness region. Crews monitored the creeping and smoldering fire along Highway 1 to prevent impact to telecommunication lines. Firefighters also patrolled Highway 1 as rolling material impacted the highway, potentially presenting hazards to vehicles and apparatuses, as well as potential vectors for spot fires across the road.

Today, fire behavior is expected to be similar to yesterday with increased activity once the marine layer inversion lifts and moisture in the air decreases. The fire will burn actively, primarily responding to topography, even against the wind. Firefighters will be closely monitoring the weather conditions and executing the appropriate plan of action should conditions change. In the south end near Hermitage, crews will continue to build and reinforce indirect containment lines and seek opportunities to pioneer direct lines when safe to do so. More resources have arrived on the fire to assist in both night and day operations.

The threat of fire crossing Hwy 1 still exists through the several drainages/underpasses that hold a high concentration of available fuels, creating a passageway for fire to cross under the hwy onto the west side. Along with this are many telecommunication lines that could be susceptible to fire and potentially impact the hwy. Firefighters will patrol and evaluate these underpasses for a strategic plan to keep the fire from passing through.

The fire is threatening the communities of Hermitage and Lucia on the south, and Partington Ridge on the north. Multiple businesses, communications sites, parks, and recreational sites are also threatened. Among natural resources threatened are the Ventana Wilderness, 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. Currently there are 96 large uncontained fires nationwide with nearly 28,000 firefighters. To date, fires have burned 3.7 million acres with 1.84 million acres burned in California alone. 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.

There was a community meeting held yesterday at 2:00 PM that was livestreamed on the [Los Padres National Forest](#) Facebook page. That video can also be viewed retroactively on the same Facebook page. Please send any questions to 2020.dolan@firenet.gov.

Weather: The marine inversion (around 1200 feet) will once again impact the fire producing morning low clouds and fog across the west flank of the fire. Otherwise, mostly clear and smokey conditions are expected.

Evacuations / Closures: Click [here](#) for an interactive map of Monterey County evacuations.

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 Alert 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.