

Dolan Fire Update



August 31, 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: 29,434

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

Containment: 25%

Injuries: 0

Resources:

Hand Crews: 16

Engines: 77

Dozers: 9

Helicopters: 10

Water Tenders: 25

Total Personnel: 1,025

Current Situation:

Last night's marine layer helped decrease fire activity. Crews conducted a tactical firing option along the north section, to reinforce the containment line along the McWay drainage. Firefighters cleared vegetation and other fuels around infrastructure in the Partington area.

Fire activity is increasing along the southeast section. Firefighters are working on containment lines around the Twin Peak area, including along the Nacimiento Fergusson Road which will potentially be used to stop the spread of the fire as it burns south. Residence in the area may see or smell an increase in smoke as fire activity increases. Fire crews are constructing lines on the southeast corner of the fire to protect local communities and other values at risk.

The east side continues to burn further into the Ventana Wilderness. As the north and south perimeters are secured, the firefighting effort will shift to address the fire's movement into the Ventana Wilderness. The work on Nacimiento Fergusson Road and the forest trail and road system is the beginning of this effort.

Today three years ago, Los Padres National Forest Battalion Chief Gary Helming tragically lost his life while returning home from a fire assignment. Gary was killed when a vehicle travelling in the opposite direction blew a tire and swerved head-on into his vehicle. We can honor battalion chief Helming's life by being extra cautious when traveling on roadways and ask the public to do the same. This is a reminder that driving safety is critical at all times.

Highway 1 remains closed. Firefighters and cooperating agencies are working diligently to open the road as soon as is safely possible. Rolling rocks are a continued safety concern throughout the highway closure. The public's support is appreciated.

The fire poses a risk to multiple businesses, parks, recreational sites, and communication infrastructure as well as the communities of Hermitage and Lucia in the south, and Partington Ridge in the north. Among natural resources threatened are the Ventana Wilderness, coastal watershed, and habitat for threatened and endangered species, including the California condor.

Later this week California Interagency Incident Command Team 2 will transition command of the Dolan Fire to Pacific Northwest Team 2 (PNW2). PNW2 will shadow CIIMT2 on Wednesday and assume command of the incident Thursday morning.

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.

Weather: The marine inversion on the west flank of the fire is around 1200 feet deep and expected to lift around midmorning. Otherwise, clear and smoky skies are in the forecast. Weather conditions will be monitored closely to adapt and execute an appropriate plan.

Evacuations / Closures: Click [here](#) for an interactive map of Monterey County evacuations. For information about state highway closures go to <https://roads.dot.ca.gov/>.

Nacimiento-Fergusson Road is closed to all traffic (public and residential) from Highway 1 to the Fort Hunter Liggett base boundary line 16 miles inland. This closure includes the intersection with South Coast Ridge Road at Nacimiento-Fergusson Road summit. Los Burros Road, Plaskett Road and South Coast Ridge Road are closed to all but residential traffic.

Smoke: The air quality in communities around the fire is forecast to range from good to moderate. Smoke and haze will likely be visible, especially in the afternoon when the marine layer lifts. Smoke intensity will continue to depend on local fire activity.

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.