

Dolan Fire Update



September 2, 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: 31,005

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

Containment: 35%

Injuries: 3

Structures Destroyed: 8

Resources:

Hand Crews: 11

Engines: 66

Dozers: 8

Helicopters: 10

Water Tenders: 22

Total Personnel: 904

Current Situation:

Overnight saw calm conditions and fire activity was minimal. Crews were able to continue to enhance containment lines and hold previous work. Today's weather forecasts a marine layer up to 2,000 feet which could linger through most of the day, suppressing fire activity in the fire's lower elevations. Above 2,000 feet weather is expected to continue to be warmer and drier with light winds throughout the day. An infrared flight was completed last night showing fire growth of a few hundred acres.

Last night crews in the north end of the fire continued reinforcing containment lines along McWay Ridge and "mopping up" (ensuring areas where fire has moved through had little potential to burn again). In the Partington area crews finished clearing around infrastructure and constructing indirect line. Crews also patrolled along Highway 1 and continued to keep fire out of Lucia and the Hermitage and worked on the southern contingency lines.

Today's deeper inversion is expected to hold smoke over the fire area which may inhibit helicopter support into some areas during much of the day. The inversion will help to keep fire activity lower and potential spotting to fifty feet or less. Much of the fire is currently backing down slopes, burning vegetation at a much lower intensity. Rolling material (burning logs and vegetation) moving off the extremely steep slopes and igniting unburned fuels below continues to be the primary cause of fire growth.

Most of the fire growth is occurring in the Ventana Wilderness and the area around Cone Peak. Today's plan is to insert several Hot Shot crews into the wilderness to begin direct line construction in that area. Crews will also continue work on the contingency line south of Prewitt Ridge between South Coast Ridge Road and Highway 1 and a half mile south of Alms Ridge. Both dozers and hand crews are being used to build the primary line on "No Name Ridge" which runs west to Highway 1 from the Cone Peak Road. This line is north of Nacimiento Fergusson Road.

An excessive heat watch has been issued for this area and temperatures are expected to be in the 90's along the coast and low hundreds inland from Friday through Monday afternoon. Winds are forecast to remain mild. Fire activity is expected to increase with this change in weather conditions. Firefighting operations are being adjusted as necessary to ensure continued and increased containment throughout the weekend.

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 at 2,000 feet today and may not lift throughout the day. The east flank of the fire and above 2,000 feet is seeing much hotter and drier conditions during the day.

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/>.

Monday a mandatory evacuation order went into effect south of Nacimiento-Fergusson Road, west of South Coast Ridge to Prewitt Ridge including Alms Ridge due to increased fire behavior and winds. Highway 1 remains closed with an expanded hard closure south to Pacific Valley Station. Rock slides, rolling debris, heavy fire traffic and repair crews working adjacent to and within the roadway are a continued safety concern throughout the Highway 1 closure.

Forest Order Number 05-07-51-20-19 remains in effect.

Smoke: The air quality in communities around the fire is forecast to range from good to moderate. 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 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

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.