

Dolan Fire

Update – September 19, 2020

Rob Allen, Incident Commander



Fire Information: 831-272-0222

Email: 2020.Dolan@firenet.gov

Media Information: 831-272-0221

Inciweb: <https://inciweb.nwccg.gov/incident/7018>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lospadresnationalforest>

Size: 128,050 acres

Containment: 46%

Personnel: 678

Start Date: August 18, 2020

Cause: Under Investigation

Structures Damaged: 4

Structures Destroyed: 19

YESTERDAY'S ACTIVITIES: Overall, there was moderate fire behavior on the Dolan Fire yesterday but gusty afternoon winds produced some visible smoke columns from burnout operations on Highway 1 as isolated pockets of green vegetation burned within containment lines.

Yesterday crews continued burning along Highway 1, finishing most of the burnout from Mill Creek to Pacific Valley with both hand and aerial ignitions. On the south side of the fire, firefighters continued to hold all fire on the north side of McKern Road with the assistance of favorable southwesterly winds.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES: Hot and dry conditions are forecasted for the weekend, which could increase fire behavior across the Dolan Fire area. Infrared technology is an important tool for fire managers to use in identifying pockets of heat near fire lines and aircraft is quickly dispatched to drop retardant or water on these hot spots. Several helicopters remain available today to respond across the incident if there are flare ups near containment lines due to the change in weather conditions.

Crews continue to hold and patrol the burnout operations on Highway 1 as fire backs down the steep coastal slopes to the road. Firefighters have also been holding fire lines along Prewitt Ridge and around to McKern Road where fire from Wednesday's burnout operation has joined the main fire. Firefighters continue to hold McKern Road as a containment line and while crews remain diligent watching for spot fires, favorable winds pushing fire north of the road have allowed firefighters to begin cooling and containing the line.

With structure protection work complete in and around Arroyo Seco, firefighters have seen little movement of the fire in recent days. Directly accessing the northeastern portion of the fire remains dangerous and firefighters cannot safely engage due to the steep, rugged terrain and challenging fuel and weather conditions. Fire managers will continue to use heavy helicopters to cool hot spots on the south side of the river and will monitor the fire's movement in the area. Several large trees have fallen across the McKern Road and material from the fire area continues to roll down the steep slopes onto Highway 1. Crews often must cut through downed trees to gain access to the fire area or leave for the day. Roads around the fire area remain closed for the safety of the public. They will be reopened again when it is safe to do so and the hazards along the roadside have been addressed.

EVACUATIONS: The Monterey County Sheriff's Office has evacuations ORDERS and WARNINGS in effect. For current evacuation information view the OES interactive map or call 211. SPCA Monterey County can assist with rescuing, sheltering, and evacuating animals. Call 831-373-2631 – day; 831-264-5455 – night; www.spcamc.org.

ROAD CLOSURES: HWY 1 is closed between mile post 25 and mile post 10. Nacimiento-Ferguson Rd is closed to all traffic from Highway 1 to the Fort Hunter Liggett base boundary line. For more information visit <https://roads.dot.ca.gov/>.

REGIONAL FOREST CLOSURES: Regional Order No. 20-10 USDA Forest Service has closed public entry to several national forests including the Los Padres National Forest.

WEATHER: Hotter and drier temperatures will return to the area today with winds out of the west/northwest.

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