

Dolan Fire Update



September 1, 2020 Evening

Public Information Phone: (831) 272-0222

Media Information Phone: (831) 272-0221

Incident E-mail: 2020.Dolan@firenet.gov

Incident Website: inciweb.nwccg.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: 111

Engines: 66

Dozers: 8

Helicopters: 10

Water Tenders: 22

Total Personnel: 904

Current Situation:

Today saw minimal forward movement in most of the fire area. Much of the fire is currently backing down slopes, burning vegetation at a much lower intensity. The primary cause of the fire expansion was rolling material (burning logs and vegetation) moving off the extremely steep slopes and igniting unburned fuels below. Crews continued to build contingency lines both by hand and with dozers in the south area of the fire. Much of the northern line is now contained and helicopters were able to do some water drops on the eastern most flank of the fire in the Ventana Wilderness. Suppression repair work also began today in the Lucia area.

Crews continued work along the north section of the fire, patrolling and putting out hot spots near the containment lines along McWay Ridge at North Coast Ridge Road. The line has been completed and unburned vegetation has been fired out. Firefighters have also completed clearing of vegetation and other fuels around infrastructure in the Partington area. Much of this area is now contained and crews are moving to other priorities.

The southern containment lines near Lucia are holding well and suppression repair work has begun in this area. A contingency line south of Prewitt Ridge between South Coast Ridge Road and Highway 1 and a half mile south of Alms Ridge was started. Crews continued to work on the primary indirect containment line north of Nacimiento Ferguson Road and along the road to Cone Peak. Both dozers and hand crews are being used to build this line on "No Name Ridge" which runs east and west to Highway 1 from the Cone Peak Road.

The east side of the fire continues to burn further into the Ventana Wilderness. Helicopters were able to do some water drops in the Lost Valley area today once the smoke cleared in the late afternoon. The fire is primarily backing in this area and crews hope to build hand line along the fire perimeter, going direct, to minimize the fire size and expansion. The crews will remain out near the fire's edge (spiking out) and staying in this area for several days at a time. The heavy smoke and haze prevented hand crews from being dropped into this area today, but the plan is to get crews into the wilderness as soon as possible now that the northern perimeter is contained and excellent progress is being made on the southern edge of the fire.

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 and 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 remained about 1,200 feet deep for most of the day. The east flank of the fire and above 1,200 feet is seeing much hotter and drier conditions during the day. Weather is expected to be similar tomorrow with lower temperatures and higher humidity below 1,200 feet, and higher temperatures and lower humidity above the marine inversion.

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/>.

Yesterday 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 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

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.