



NEWS



News Headlines 08/6-8/2016

- UPDATE 22: Vegetation Fire Near Silverwood Lake – 4,500 Acres – 5% Contained
- What we know about the Pilot fire burning near Silverwood Lake
- Crews struggle to contain mountain wildfire (UPDATE)
- Pilot Fire in Lake Silverwood continues to grow
- PILOT FIRE UPDATE: 4,500 acres burned, 5% containment
- Pilot fire in San Bernardino County scorches 4,500 acres
- Out of Control
- Pilot Fire Burning In Nearby San Bernardino Mountains
- Air battle waged against inland region's biggest fire
- 5 things to know about the Pilot fire on Monday morning
- Pilot fire burning 4,500 acres in San Bernardino Mountains
- Snapped Power Pole Disrupts Traffic
- Car fire put out before it could damage San Bernardino apartments
- Firefighters Extinguish Burrtec Truck Fire in Victorville
- Deceptively dangerous: Officials recommend residents steer clear of aqueduct

UPDATE 22: Vegetation Fire Near Silverwood Lake – 4,500 Acres – 5% Contained

Michael P. Neufeld , Rim Of The World News

Posted: August 7, 2016, 12:22 PM



Firefighters worked overnight on the Pilot Fire which has been remapped at 4,500 acres with 5 percent containment. (Photo by San Bernardino County Fire)



Structure protection is just one element of firefighting efforts on the Pilot Fire near Silverwood Lake. (Photo by San Bernardino County Fire)



The Pilot Fire near Silverwood Lake and The Pinnacles continues to burn. Official uopdates are expected shortly. (Photo by U.S. Forest Service)



Special helicopters will be utilized overnight to provide assistance to firefighters on the ground battling the Pilot Fire near Silverwood Lake and Summit Valley. (Photo by CalFire)



The Pilot Fire looking toward The Pinnacles from Lake Arrowhead. Mandatory evacuations are now in place along portions of Highway 173 in Summit Valley. (Photo by Marilyn Jordan)



Structure protection at Pilot Rock Conservation Camp. (Photo by San Bernardino County Fire)



During the early stages of the fire, 40 King from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department had to "herd" several OHV vehicles away from the Pilot Fire. (Photo by Raymond Ray/RimFire)

Silverwood Lake – U. S. Forest Service spokesperson Bob Poole told ROTWNEWS.com that the 4,500 acre Pilot Fire died down overnight but is expected to become more active during the day, Monday when temperatures rise and winds pick up.

The number of people evacuated since the fire began Sunday afternoon near Silverwood Lake had not been released as of 7 a.m. Monday morning.

No injuries to firefighters or civilians have been reported.

UPDATE 21: Monday, August 8 – 7:23 a.m.

Silverwood Lake – The U.S. Forest Service is reporting the Pilot Fire is now 4,500 acres and 5 percent contained. Night Flying Air Attack using infrared mapping updated the acreage.

UPDATE 20: Monday, August 8 – 5:44 a.m.

Silverwood Lake – With people evacuated from the Summit Valley area, structure protection crews were placed at several locations in and around the Pilot Fire.

Additional fire crews arrived overnight and air tankers have been ordered for this morning, according to Bob Poole from the U.S. Forest Service.

UPDATE 19: Monday, August 8 – 5:27 a.m.

Silverwood Lake – The Southern California inter-agency incident management team 3 has been mobilized to the Pilot Fire near Silverwood Lake, according to **San Bernardino County Fire's** Marc Peebles.

UPDATE 18: Monday, August 8 – 5:10 a.m.

Silverwood Lake – Highway 138 is open to through traffic. However, fire equipment is moving in and out of the area and motorists are advised to seek an alternate route.

Highway 173 in the Summit Valley area is still closed.

The Command Post is now located at the San Bernardino County Fairgrounds in Victorville.

UPDATE 17: Monday, August 8 – 4 a.m.

Silverwood Lake, CA – The U.S. Forest Service is in Unified Command with CALFIRE, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and California Highway Patrol.

The fire is currently shown as 1,500 acres with no containment. The fire information will be updated shortly and when it is ROTWNEWS.com will provide that information.

UPDATE 16: Sunday, August 7 – 7:25 p.m.

Silverwood Lake, CA – U.S. Forest Service spokesperson Bob Poole told ROTWNEWS.com the Pilot Fire is now 1,500 acres.

The American Red Cross Reception and Care Center is located at the Ranchero Middle School at 17607 Ranchero Road in Hesperia.

The Evacuation Center for animals is located at the San Bernardino County Fairgrounds located at 14800 7th Street in Victorville.

UPDATE 15: Sunday, August 7 – 6:25 p.m.

Silverwood Lake, CA – The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department is now reporting mandatory evacuations on Highway 173 from Cedar Springs Spillway to Mojave River Forks Campground.

There are only a handful of homes in this area.

The Pilot Fire — now in excess of 1,000 acres — is utilizing eight (8) air tankers to assist ground crews including Tanker 910 and Coulson 131.

A night operations helicopter has been ordered to work overnight on the fire.

Currently, over 400 firefighters are battling the blaze.

UPDATE 14: Sunday, August 7 – 5:15 p.m.

Silverwood Lake, CA – The U. S. Forest Service has announced evacuations have been ordered in the Summit Valley Area east of the Cedar Springs Dam. Evacuations started for south of Arrowhead Lake Road from Highway 173 to Hesperia Lakes Road.

The American Red Cross Reception and Care Center is located at the Ranchero Middle School at 17607 Ranchero Road in Hesperia.

UPDATE 13: Sunday, August 7 – 4:45 p.m.

Silverwood Lake, CA – Over 400 firefighters assigned to the Pilot Fire, including 30 engines, 6 crews, 5 dozers, 8 helicopters, 7 air tankers, including the VLAT (Tanker 910) assigned.

Additional firefighters have been ordered and will be responding directly to the fire..

FIRE INFORMATION

The Pilot Fire may run into the old “Willow Fire” burn scar. The Willow Fire in 1999, consumed over 63,000 acres and burned 40 structures.

However, the last fire in the same area was the “Stable Fire” in 1959, that burned about 12,000 acres.

UPDATE 12: Sunday, August 7 – 4:27 p.m.

Silverwood Lake, CA – The Incident Command Center is now located on Highway 173 in an abandoned country store.

The Forest Service is closing the Deep Creek area and the Pacific Crest Trail in the area of the Pilot Fire.

A second VLAT (Very Large Air Tanker) is on order but so far the request has not been confirmed.

Firefighters are moving into several mountain areas to provide structure protection should it be necessary as the wind-driven fire continues to burn.

UPDATE 11: Sunday, August 7 – 3:14 p.m.

Silverwood Lake, CA – The Pilot Fire — which is well established in the Pinnacles area — has grown to just under 1,000 acres, according to Bob Poole from the U.S. Forest Service.

An additional VLAT has been ordered to assist the DC-10 that is already making drops on the fire.

Advisories are being issued by the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department but no additional evacuation orders have been activated.

There are currently 7 helicopters working the fire and additional choppers have been requested.

UPDATE 10: Sunday, August 7 – 2:54 p.m.

Silverwood Lake, CA – Structure protection is now in place at Pilot Rock Conservation Camp, according to San Bernardino County Fire.

Over 200 personnel are currently on the fire line.

Evacuations are being considered for other locations and ROTWNEWS.com will report those as they are made available.

UPDATE 9: Sunday, August 7 – 2:39 p.m.

Silverwood Lake, CA – The Pilot Fire — which may have been started as a car fire — has now grown to 300-400 acres, according to U. S. Forest Service spokesperson Bob Poole.

The VLAT (Very Large Air Tanker) — a DC-10 — has made its first drop on the Pilot Fire.

Here is a map showing the approximate location of the fire.

UPDATE 8: Sunday, August 7 – 2:04 p.m.

Silverwood Lake, CA – The U.S. Forest Service is reporting residents along Highway 173 near the Cedar Springs Dam are being evacuated at this time.

UPDATE 7: Sunday, August 7 – 2:04 p.m.

Silverwood Lake, CA – The Pilot Fire — now moving in the direction of Deep Creek — has grown to roughly 150 acres, according to scanner transmissions.

Forest Service Spokesperson Bob Poole told ROTWNEWS.com that the fast-moving fire has just surpassed the 150 acre mark.

A VLAT (Very Large Air Tanker) has been requested and is expected to be over the Pilot Fire shortly.

UPDATE 6: Sunday, August 7 – 1:40 p.m.

Silverwood Lake, CA – Highway 138 has been closed at Old Mill Road in Crestline at the junction of Highway 173 near the Cedar Springs Dam.

Forest Service spokesperson Bob Poole told ROTWNEWS.com that the fire is 45-50 acres and is entirely on Forest Service land.

Agencies assisting the U.S. Forest Service include San Bernardino County Fire and CalFire, according to Poole who just arrived at the scene.

The fire is now reportedly heading in the direction of Deep Creek, according to scanners.

UPDATE 5: Sunday, August 7 – 1:17 p.m.

Silverwood Lake, CA – The Incident Commander has just reported the Pilot Fire is holding at about 25 acres.

Due to the steep terrain and remote location, the fire has become a hand crew and air show, according to scanner transmissions.

UPDATE 4: Sunday, August 7 – 1:08 p.m.

Silverwood Lake, CA – No evacuations have been ordered at this time.

The staging point is at Highway 173 and Highway 138 near the dam.

UPDATE 3: Sunday, August 7 – 12:45 p.m.

Silverwood Lake, CA – The Pilot Fire near Silverwood Lake is now 25-30 acres and burning in all directions, according to scanner reports.

The fire is reportedly a half mile from the nearest structures and structure protection fire crews have been ordered.

40-King located 5 off-road riders a quarter mile east of the fire and advised them to leave the area immediately.

Reports of people trapped at the Pilot Rock Campground were unfounded as the CHP checked the facility and deemed it clear.

UPDATE 2: Sunday, August 7 – 12:31 p.m.

Silverwood Lake, CA – The command post at Silverwood Lake has just ordered 4 additional tankers and 2 additional helicopters.

The fire is located on the hills directly north of the Pilot Rock Campground.

ORIGINAL STORY

Silverwood Lake, CA – A vegetation fire is burning near Silverwood Lake off Highway 138 and Pilot Rock Road, according to scanner reports.

Multiple agencies are responding at this time.

ROTNEWS.com will continue to provide updates as they become available.

<http://rotnews.com/2016/08/07/vegetation-fire-reported-near-silverwood-lake/>

What we know about the Pilot fire burning near Silverwood Lake

Sarah Batcha, Los Angeles News Group

Posted: August 7, 2016, 3:37 PM

SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS >> The Pilot fire is burning in the San Bernardino National Forest off Highway 138 just east of Silverwood Lake.

Here's what we know about the brush fire so far:

- 1,500 acres of timber and brush have burned as of 9 p.m. Sunday and was 0% contained.
- The fire was first reported at 12:15 p.m. off Highway 138 and Pilot Rock Road.
- Mandatory evacuations have been ordered for the Summit Valley area between Cedar Springs Dam and Mojave River Forks Park.
- Voluntary evacuation are in place for areas south of Arrowhead Lake Road from Highway 173 to Hesperia Lakes Road.
- The American Red Cross is setting up an evacuation center at Ranchero Middle School, 17607 Ranchero Road, in Hesperia.
- Highway 138 is closed between Mill Creek and Highway 173 and Highway 173 is closed between Highway 138 and Arrowhead Lake Road. Evacuation areas are being blocked off to incoming traffic, as well.
- The Miller Canyon OHV area is closed.
- A total of 400 fire personnel from multiple agencies are currently battling the fire.
- Smoke from the fire can be seen from Barstow to portions of Riverside County and High Desert residents have reported ash falling throughout the region.
- The cause of the fire is currently unknown.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20160807/what-we-know-about-the-pilot-fire-burning-near-silverwood-lake>

Crews struggle to contain mountain wildfire (UPDATE)

Pilot fire chars 4,500 acres near Silverwood Lake, prompting aggressive response. Officials say wildfire is 5 percent contained as of 7 a.m. Monday.

Ali Tadayon And John Blodgett, Press Enterprise

Posted: August 7, 2016



Flames from the Pilot Fire jump across HWY 173 as it burns into the night east of Silverwood Lake, CA. Sunday, Aug 7, 2016. Terry Pierson, Staff Photographer

FAST FACTS

Fire started: About 12:10 p.m. Sunday near the Miller Canyon Off-Highway Vehicle area

Cause: Unknown

Acres burned: 1,500 by Sunday night

Containment: 0 percent

Evacuations: In sparsely populated areas east and northeast of Silverwood Lake

Evacuation center: Oak Hills High School, 7625 Cataba Road, Oak Hills. Large animals can be taken to the San Bernardino County Fairgrounds, 14800 Seventh St., Victorville.

Questions? Call the San Bernardino Fire Information Center at 909-383-5688.

A fast-moving fire on the north side of the San Bernardino Mountains on Sunday burned 1,500 acres in eight hours and forced evacuations near Silverwood Lake.

The blaze, dubbed the Pilot fire, burned east of the lake in the San Bernardino National Forest, filling the air with thick, heavy smoke that was visible for miles. Crews had no containment as darkness fell.

The fire broke out about 12:10 p.m. near the Miller Canyon Off-Highway Vehicle area off Highway 138, according to the U.S. Forest Service. The cause was not known.

Within hours, mandatory evacuation orders were issued, including in the area south of the 173 between the Cedar Springs Dam and Mojave River Forks Regional Park, plus the area along Arrowhead Lake Road between the 173 and Hesperia Lake, according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and the Forest Service.

Residents of Summit Valley east of the dam are under a voluntary evacuation order, and no one was allowed into the area.

"I'm getting my treasures out and then I'll take it from there," said 20-year Summit Valley resident Debra Ferry, who started loading family photos, books and Bibles into her car Sunday afternoon.

The American Red Cross originally opened an evacuation center at Ranchero Middle School in Hesperia. In the evening, the evacuation center was moved to Oak Hills High School at 7625 Cataba Road in Oak Hills.

Those with large animals were told to take them to the San Bernardino County Fairgrounds in Victorville.

San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies investigated reports in the afternoon that someone was shooting at air tankers dropping retardant on the fire.

Deputies found two people shooting in the desert area west of Arrowhead Lake Road and south of Hesperia Lake, sheriff's spokeswoman Cynthia Bachman said in an email. Deputies determined that they were not shooting at the planes, and that the weapons were legal and registered.

The blaze shuttered Highway 138 between Highway 173 and Mill Creek, and the 173 between the 138 and Grass Valley Road, according to Caltrans. The off-highway vehicle area also was closed. I-15 was not threatened.

Gusty 15- to 20-mph winds from the south pushed the huge smoke plume north into the High Desert, where residents said ash was raining down and air-quality officials warned people to stay indoors.

AGGRESSIVE RESPONSE

As the fire began, it burned up a ridge east of the lake, said Bob Poole, a San Bernardino National Forest spokesman. At the time, he said there would be "a long ways to go" before any structures might be threatened.

Firefighters responded aggressively. About 400 were assigned to fight the fire, along with 32 engines, five bulldozers, eight helicopters and eight air tankers, including a massive DC-10.

Multiple strike teams responded, including **San Bernardino County Fire Department's** gel task force, which protects structures by spraying them with a fire-blocking gel.

The fire Was burning in timber and brush, the Forest Service said.

The fire put up so much smoke that the plume could be seen from southwest Riverside County and Barstow.

The smoke was showing up on Doppler radar, the National Weather Service said.

WORRIED RESIDENTS

Darkness came early to Hesperia. Menacing gray smoke from the fire covered an expanse of the sky from one horizon to another. A comfortable breeze kept things cool.

At 7:45 p.m., before the announcement of the change in the evacuation center, Red Cross volunteers were ready in Hesperia, and spokeswoman Georgia Duncan said several families had stopped by for information.

"The people (being evacuated) are very self-reliant," she said. "They're probably not going to run right way."

Earlier in the day, sheriff's deputies went door to door in the sparsely populated evacuation areas to notify

people of the fire, said San Bernardino National Forest Service spokesman Travis Mason.

Lola Stevens, 33, who lives in the Hesperia area about 20 miles from where the fire broke out, said she was concerned because she was home with her four children – ages 8, 7, 4 and 7 months – while her husband was at work with the car. About 4:10 p.m., she said, the smoke was so thick she could barely see the sun. Her dogs were hiding near bushes on the property.

Stevens said her family was worried but prepared.

“This is the first time we’ve ever needed to consider an evacuation,” she said. “We have pretty much the basics.”

WORDS OF CAUTION

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District issued a smoke advisory for the Victor Valley. It urged everyone – especially those with heart or lung disease, older adults and children – to limit time spent outdoors and avoid outdoor exercise if smoke was in the area.

Authorities advised the public to avoid traveling to the Silverwood Lake and Crestline areas because emergency crews need access. They also warned people not to fly drones over the fire.

Drones “pose a major safety threat to firefighting pilots and firefighters,” Forest Service officials said in a statement. “When a hobby drone is flown into a fire area, incident commanders have no choice but to suspend air operations and ground aircraft until the drone is removed” to avoid the risk of a midair collision.

The fire also was near the state’s Pilot Rock Conservation Camp. Cal Fire agency jointly operates the camp with the state Department of Corrections and provides inmate crews for firefighting.

<http://www.pe.com/articles/san-810036-bernardino-burned.html>

Pilot Fire in Lake Silverwood continues to grow

Big Bear Grizzly

Posted: August 7, 2016



Smoke and flames from the Pilot Fire can be seen along the ridge in the Lake Silverwood area Aug. 7. Photo courtesy of Inciweb

UPATE: 12:02 a.m., Aug. 8. The Forest Service is in Unified Command with CalFire, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, **San Bernardino County Fire** and California Highway Patrol as the Pilot Fire is at 1,500 acres with no containment as of 10 p.m. Aug. 7.

Road closures: Highway 173 is closed between Highway 138 and Arrowhead Lake Road. Highway 138 is now open between I-15 and Crestline.

Evacuations have been ordered for the Summit Valley area east of Cedar Springs Dam. The American Red Cross Reception and Care Center is located at the Ranchero Middle School, 17607 Ranchero Road in Hesperia. Individuals with large animals may bring their animals to the San Bernardino County Fairground in Victorville, 14800 7th Street, Victorville.

Smoke advisories have been issued for the Mojave Desert area.

The Pilot Fire is on the San Bernardino National Forest northeast of Lake Silverwood, burning 1,500 acres of timber and brush. There are 400 firefighters assigned to the fire including 36 engines, eight crews, five dozers, eight helicopters, eight air tankers and VLAT. A night helicopter has been requested to assist firefighters overnight. Additional firefighters have been ordered and will be responding directly to the fire.

UPDATE: 4:48 p.m., Aug. 7. Approximately 400 firefighters are assigned to the Pilot Fire with 32 engines, eight crews, five dozers, eight helicopters, eight air tankers and the VLAT on assignment. Initial attack will continue. Tanker 910 and the Night-Flight Helicopter have been requested.

There are weather concerns with this fire, as the area is experiencing warm, dry conditions. Fuels involved are timber and brush.

Highway 173 is closed between Highway 138 and Arrowhead Lake Road. Highway 138 is closed from Old Mill Road to Highway 173.

UPDATE: 3:42 p.m., Aug. 7. The Pilot Fire is currently at 1,000 acres and growing rapidly. The San Bernardino National Forest is requesting closures at Deep Creek and the Pacific Crest Trail.

There are currently 350 firefighters assigned to this fire, including 20 engines, five crews, five dozers, seven helicopters, seven air tankers including the VLAT assigned. Additional firefighters have been ordered and will be responding directly to the fire. Tanker 910 has been requested.

While drones have not been seen over the Pilot Fire, fire managers remind the public that hobby drones or unmanned aircraft systems pose a major safety threat to firefighting pilots and firefighters. When a hobby drone is flown into a fire area, incident commanders have no choice but to suspend air operations and ground aircraft until the drone is removed from the area.

The Pilot Fire is east-northeast of Lake Silverwood, and north of Crestline.

The Pilot Fire, located near Lake Silverwood area west of Lake Arrowhead, is being fought by firefighters from the San Bernardino National Forest Fire Department and San Bernardino County Fire Department.

The fire was first reported around 12:15 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 7 in the San Bernardino National Forest, and has grown to 350 acres. Miller Canyon OHV area is closed. Highway 138 is closed between Highway 173 and Mill Creek.

County resources fighting the Pilot Fire stands at 12 engines, two crews, two tenders, one dozer and three chief officers. Multiple air assets are assisting. Areas around Highway 138 and Old Mill Road and the junction of Highways 138 and 173 are being evacuated. Structure protection is in place.

The fire poses no threat to the Big Bear Valley at this time.

http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/pilot-fire-in-lake-silverwood-continues-to-grow/article_bb28354c-5ce7-11e6-b7c3-9337f30de9af.html

PILOT FIRE UPDATE: 4,500 acres burned, 5% containment

Steve Hunt, Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: August 8, 2016, 6:42 AM

HESPERIA — Fire officials said the Pilot Fire was five percent contained Monday morning and has burned over 4,500 acres near the southeast edge of Hesperia.

The last update on Sunday night reported 1,500 acres burned and that firefighters did not have any containment of the fire.

San Bernardino County Fire Department spokesman Eric Sherwin said fire activity decreased as the temperatures dropped and the wind decreased late Sunday night and early Monday morning.

"The fire just calmed down on its own," Engineer Chris Perry told the Daily Press shortly before 6 a.m. Monday as his engine was stopped for water at a hydrant outside Hesperia Liquor and Deli on Arrowhead Lake Road in Hesperia. "We got a lot of humidity.

"They're doing a burn, a backfire, along Highway 173 now, so if it gets a head of steam, it doesn't have anywhere to go."

Perry said the fire, which started at about 12:10 p.m. Sunday in the Miller Canyon OHV area off Highway 138 near Silverwood Lake, has been burning only on the west side of Highway 173 so far. He said he didn't think Hesperia was in jeopardy at this time.

"We've got some pretty good lines," he said. "The dozers are out there working and we've got a lot of air support."

However, Sherwin said he expects fire behavior to pick up with increasing temperatures, wind and decreasing humidity.

According to County Fire's incident update at 6 a.m., 400 firefighters have been battling the blaze, along with 36 engines, eight crews, five bulldozers, eight helicopters and eight air tankers. Sherwin said the firefighters have worked on the fire for over 18 hours and a morning crew was expected to take over following a morning briefing that was ongoing at 7 a.m.

Residents in Summit Valley and in Hesperia along Highway 173 south of Hesperia Lake were evacuated on Sunday. Oak Hills High School was set up as an evacuation center, but a Red Cross official said no residents stayed at the school overnight.

The evacuation orders were still in place Monday morning, but Sherwin said he does not anticipate any additional evacuations.

"Right now we are not looking to expand the evacuation zones. Obviously the fire will dictate what evacuations we have to hold in place or add to," he said.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection officials said there was a "voluntary" evacuation in place for residents in the Deep Creek area, south of Rock Springs Road.

Meanwhile, the smoke plume from the fire was significantly reduced on Monday morning. Though still large, it was only about half the size it was on Sunday night. However, flames could be seen on Monday morning.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20160808/pilot-fire-update-4500-acres-burned-5-containment>

Pilot fire in San Bernardino County scorches 4,500 acres

Brittney Mejia, LA Times

Posted: August 8, 2016, 10:10 AM



The Pilot fire in San Bernardino County has grown to 4,500 acres.



The Pilot fire burns on Monday. (Mark Boster / Los Angeles Times)

A fire near Silverwood Lake in San Bernardino County has grown to 4,500 acres, with only 5% containment, officials said Monday.

The Pilot fire, first reported around noon Sunday, spread quickly amid dry brush and timber, according to the U.S. Forest Service. Firefighters and bulldozers worked through the night building fire lines, said U.S. Forest Service spokesman Bob Poole.

“Because the vegetation is so incredibly dry, all it takes is a little spark and it’s just been chewing through it,” Poole said. “That’s been our difficulty.”

Evacuations remain in place for the Summit Valley area, east of Cedar Springs Dam. There has been no structural damage to homes, said Poole, who described the area as rural.

Because the vegetation is so incredibly dry, all it takes is a little spark and it’s just been chewing through it.— Bob Poole, U.S. Forest Service spokesman.

There are about 400 firefighters on the fire, Poole said.

“Because of the aggressive attack by our firefighters, we were able to protect homes,” Poole said. “We did a lot of structure protection last night. These guys — they’re highly trained, they’re highly motivated and they’re doing an incredible job in difficult conditions.”

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

There is an American Red Cross Reception and Care Center located at Oak Hills High School. Pet owners can bring animals to the San Bernardino County Devore Animal Shelter.

Highway 173 is closed between State Route 138 and Arrowhead Lake Road.

The fire prompted a smoke advisory for Victor Valley and nearby communities, with the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District warning those with lung and heart disease as well as older adults and children to limit the amount of time spent outside.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District also issued a smoke advisory for residents in the central San Bernardino Mountains.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-pilot-fire-20160808-snap-story.html>

Out of Control

Firefighters mount massive response

Shea Johnson, Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: August 8, 2016



The Pilot Fire lights up the night sky as it burns out of control between Silverwood Lake and Summit Valley on Sunday night. This is a view of the fire from Deep Creek Road in Apple Valley. David Pardo, Daily Press



A helicopter drops water on the Pilot Fire as it raged near Silverwood Lake on Sunday. The fire burned more than 1,500 acres as of Sunday night. James Quigg, Daily Press



Trevor Rainwater watches the Pilot Fire burn into Summit Valley on Sunday evening, from the Joshua Inn which was evacuated moments later. James Quigg, Daily Press



Smoke from the Pilot Fire fills the skies in Hesperia on Sunday. James Quigg, Daily Press

A quickly spreading wildfire burning east of Silverwood Lake grew to 1,500 acres Sunday afternoon, prompting a massive firefighting response from local and regional agencies.

Reported just after noon, the blaze was burning out of control into the evening and forcing evacuations in southernmost Hesperia, officials said.

There were 400 personnel assigned to battle the fire by 11 p.m., according to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, although the figure could increase. Dubbed the Pilot Fire, the blaze was wreaking havoc in the San Bernardino National Forest, fueled by timber, brush and dry conditions.

San Bernardino County Fire officials immediately sent 12 engines, two crews, two tenders, a bulldozer and three chief officers in an effort to assist forest personnel in stopping the spread. Mandatory evacuations were ordered shortly after 5 p.m. for the south side of Highway 173 between Cedar Springs Spillway and Mojave Forks Park. Voluntary evacuations were in place for the north side of those boundaries.

A mandatory evacuation was later ordered Sunday evening for Arrowhead Lake Road, south of Hesperia Lakes to Highway 173, sheriff's officials said. Highway 173 remained closed to Highway 138.

An American Red Cross evacuation center was set up at Ranchero Middle School, 17607 Ranchero Rd. in Hesperia. The High Desert Event Center, 14800 Seventh St. in Victorville, was being utilized for evacuees with large animals.

Apple Valley Unified School District officials were monitoring the conditions of the fire as of 6:30 p.m. and would inform families of any potential school closures for Monday, spokeswoman Kristin Hernandez said. On

Facebook, not much later, the Hesperia Unified School District expressed a similar sentiment, saying they were “still planning for school to begin (Monday).”

It was unclear whether any other local districts were contemplating school closures.

Eight helicopters, eight air-tankers, 32 engines and five dozers were assigned to fight the fire, although those numbers could also grow. There were at least 400 firefighters from multiple agencies battling the blaze, according to the NWCG.

“The night flight helicopter has been requested to assist firefighters overnight,” the agency said.

Highway 173 was shut down between Highway 138 and Arrowhead Lake Road. Highway 138, meanwhile, was closed between Highway 173 and Old Mill Road.

The fire started near the Miller Canyon offhighway vehicle area off of Highway 138, but the cause remained unknown as of Sunday evening. California Highway Patrol, for some time, had rolled the wildfire incident into an earlier incident logged a “car fire,” yet a dispatcher could not confirm whether the two incidents were connected.

The fire produced a column of smoke blanketing a large swath of the Victor Valley. It grew more vast and seemingly thicker as the day went on. Some residents in Apple Valley reported ash falling from the sky.

A smoke advisory was issued for the Victor Valley and surrounding communities Sunday afternoon until further notice.

“Smoke and ash from the Pilot Fire currently burning above Silverwood Lake could impact air quality in the area,” the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District advisory noted.

For specific questions about the fire, call the San Bernardino Fire Information Center at 909-383-5688.

<http://www.desertdispatch.com/news/20160807/mountain-blaze-ignites>

Pilot Fire Burning In Nearby San Bernardino Mountains

Z107.7 News

Posted: August 8, 2016



A fast-moving fire on the north side of the San Bernardino Mountains on Sunday burned 1,500 acres in eight hours and forced evacuations near Silverwood Lake. The 4,500-acre Pilot Fire is burning timber and brush east of the lake in the San Bernardino National Forest, filling the air with thick, heavy smoke that was visible from Barstow and from southwest Riverside County, and on Doppler radar. A smoke advisory has been issued for the Mojave Desert area. Crews had no containment as darkness fell, but it is 5 percent contained as of 9 a.m. Monday. Yucca Valley Station 41 and Morongo Valley Fire Department each sent a brush engine, fire captain, engineer, and firefighter Sunday to help fight the fire, and are among 400 firefighters, 36 engines, five dozers, and eight helicopters battling the blaze. The fire broke out about 12:10 p.m. at the Miller Canyon Off-Highway Vehicle area off Highway 138, according to the U.S. Forest Service. The cause is unknown. Within hours, mandatory evacuation orders were issued, including the Summit Valley area east of Cedar Springs Dam. The American Red Cross has an evacuation center at Oak Hills High School. Those with large animals were told to take them to the San Bernardino County Fairgrounds in Victorville. Highway 173 is closed between SR-138 and Arrowhead Lake Road. Interstate 15 was not threatened. Sheriff's deputies investigated reports in the afternoon that someone was shooting at air tankers dropping retardant on the fire and said it was unfounded.

<http://z1077fm.com/pilot-fire-burning-in-nearby-san-bernardino-mountains/>

Air battle waged against inland region's biggest fire

Inland News Today

Posted: August 8, 2016



LAKE SILVERWOOD – (INT) – Fire fighters are digging in for a long-term battle against the Inland Empire's largest wildfire of the year.

The Pilot Fire has raged across 4,500 acres of brush and timber in the San Bernardino National Forest near this reservoir on the State Water Project.

While containment lines have been established on only a small portion of the fast-moving fire, there are no reports of damage to buildings and no one has been injured.

Evacuations are in place for Summit Valley east of the Cedar Springs Dam.

Highway 138 has been reopened, but Route 173 is closed between the 138 and Arrowhead Lake Road. Several Forest Service roads are also closed as is a section of the Pacific Crest Trail.

Attacking the fire has been mostly an air operation involving an assortment of helicopters and air tankers. Hundreds of fire fighters are on the ground and more are arriving.

The fire of unknown cause broke out Sunday near the Miller Canyon OHV area off Highway 138.

The Red Cross has opened an evacuation center at:
Ranchero Middle School
Ranchero Rd. in Hesperia

Evacuation Center for animals:
Victorville Fairgrounds
7th Street, Victorville

The AQMD has issued a smoke advisory north and east of the fire through Monday. Air quality may reach unhealthy levels in areas directly impacted by smoke.

<http://www.inlandnewstoday.com/story.php?s=43141>

5 things to know about the Pilot fire on Monday morning

Anne Millerbernd, Press Enterprise

Posted: August 8, 2016, 10:24 AM



Terry Pierson, Staff Photographer

A fire broke out Sunday afternoon and literally overnight, the estimated number of acres it covered jumped by 3,000.

Here are five things to know about the fire to kick off your Monday:

1. The fire is 4,500 acres and 5 percent contained. Officials originally estimated the fire covered about 1,500 acres on Sunday evening, but that doesn't mean it physically grew 3,000 acres overnight. The jump could be due to inaccurate estimates.

Firefighters say they expect the fire to become more active throughout the day Monday, but whether it spreads is dependent on the winds. It's traveling north.

2. Evacuations and road closures are in place. Mandatory evacuations are in effect along Highway 173 between Highway 183 and Arrowhead Lake Road. Also evacuated was Arrowhead Lake Road up to Hesperia Lake, according to a Cal Fire Twitter account. Voluntary evacuations were issued for the Deep Creek area just south of Rock Springs and east of Mojave River.

Highway 138 is open between I-15 and Highway 18.

3. The air quality is expected to worsen in the High Desert. The Air Quality Management District issued a smoke advisory for the Victor Valley on Sunday.

Areas directly affected by smoke will have unhealthy air, meaning everyone will notice a difference in the air quality but those with lung conditions like asthma will notice it more.

4. About 400 firefighters are involved in attack efforts. At last count, there were 36 engines, eight crews, five bulldozers, eight helicopters and eight air tankers. Firefighters from all over, including Chino, Murrieta, Ontario, Idyllwild and Riverside, were called to assist.

5. There are a handful of resources that provide updates on the fire. Of course, The Press-Enterprise will bring you the latest, but you can also find quick facts from officials on the fact sheet for the Pilot fire. Twitter accounts to follow include @CALFIREBDU and @SanBernardinoNF. Cal Fire also posts updates on its Facebook page.

<http://www.pe.com/articles/broke-810065-things-know.html>

Pilot fire burning 4,500 acres in San Bernardino Mountains

Pilot fire chars 4,500 acres near Silverwood Lake, prompting aggressive response. Official say wildfire is 5 percent contained as of 7 a.m. Monday.

Beatriz Valenzuela and Anne Millerbernd, Press Enterprise

Posted: August 8, 2016, 10:27 AM



Flame retardant covers a car on a six-acre property along Highway 173 in Summit Valley as the Pilot continues to threaten the area Monday, Aug. 8, 2016. Rachel Luna, Staff Photographer

The wildfire burning in the San Bernardino Mountains has grown to 4,500 acres and is 5 percent contained, fire officials said Monday morning.

Firefighters worked throughout the night to keep the flames away from homes, said **San Bernardino County Fire** spokesman Eric Sherwin. The fire died down overnight but was expected to become more active during the day, when winds pick up and temperatures rise.

The fire is heading north slowly for now, Cal Fire spokeswoman Liz Brown said Monday morning.

"Right now it's still early pretty calm," she said. "It all depends on the afternoon winds."

A smoke advisory is in effect for the Victor Valley, and depending on fire and weather conditions, mountain areas downwind of the fire could also be affected. Air-quality officials advise that where the air is smoky, people should stay indoors.

The Pilot fire ignited just after noon Sunday east of Highway 138 and Silverwood Lake, and south of Hesperia. It started near the Miller Canyon Off-Highway Vehicle area. Its cause has not been determined.

It spread to 1,000 acres within hours, and was estimated at 1,500 acres by night's end. The dramatic jump Monday morning, fire officials said, could be due to inaccurate previous estimates.

Questions? Call the San Bernardino Fire Information Center at 909-383-5688.

<http://www.pe.com/articles/ignited-810068-monday-bernardino.html>

Snapped Power Pole Disrupts Traffic

Mike Harris, Mountain News

Posted: August 8, 2016, 12:00 AM



A worker from Hot Line Construction works to temporarily secure a hanging power line Monday morning along Lake Gregory Drive to keep vehicles from driving into it. Mike Harris.

It wasn't a typical early morning commute on Monday for drivers using Lake Gregory Drive who suddenly had to slam on their brakes or risk snagging into low-hanging charged power lines stretching across the street.

Somewhere around 7:30 a.m. a vehicle apparently struck and snapped the Southern California Edison power pole along Lake Gregory Drive near Bergschrund Drive, then somehow was able to drive away from the scene of the collision.

At least that's the report from an Edison spokesman who told this newspaper that Edison crews responding to the incident said the pole had been hit, snapping it in half near the base.

This reporter was on his way to work, approaching the scene shortly before 8 a.m., but having to stop along with about three other vehicles because upbound traffic from Crestline was blocked by a late model Jeep Wrangler. The driver of the Wrangler was outside her vehicle, waving for approaching cars to stop and turn around.

At the same time, two crewmen from Hot Line Construction, a high voltage transmission company, happened to be in the area and stopped to assist. One of the two crewmen I saw was standing in the middle of Lake Gregory Drive on the downbound side of the sagging lines stopping traffic, while his partner was trying to rope and raise the lower line to the line above it.

A few minutes later a **County Fire** engine from Station 25 in Crestline arrived, quickly turning across Lake Gregory Drive to block traffic. The woman and her Jeep then headed back toward Crestline. A few minutes later two sheriff's Twin Peaks station units approached on the downbound side to prevent traffic from trying to cross under the charged power lines.

Emergency personnel quickly looked to see if a vehicle might have gone over the side of the road, but none could be seen.

A neighbor told me that around 7:30 a.m. he had heard a loud bang. “Just one bang,” he said, “ and it was loud.”

One firefighter spotted smoke coming from high up in the trees where lines were touching, igniting a small fire which was quickly extinguished.

Edison at the same time cut power to the lines, as well as service as to 472 customers in the immediate area. Detour signs were quickly set up by county Public Works crews, rerouting downbound vehicles onto Bernard Drive and upbound traffic onto Horst Drive.

By late afternoon the remains of the broken pole had been removed and a new pole installed. Full service was restored by 2:31 p.m. and traffic allowed to travel along Lake Gregory Drive.

According to the California Highway Patrol and sheriff’s Twin Peaks station, they received no reports of a damaged vehicle that had struck the power pole.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_a7c7e7a0-59d0-11e6-99ef-47443f20e5ad.html

Car fire put out before it could damage San Bernardino apartments

John M. Blodgett, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: August 5, 2016, 7:00 PM



Courtesy photos

SAN BERNARDINO >> Firefighters Friday afternoon extinguished a car fire before it could spread to the apartments above, according to a post to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** Facebook page. The car owners were working on it when it caught fire.

Firefighters were dispatched 3:45 p.m. Friday to the 200 block of King Street in San Bernardino, where heavy black smoke coming from the back of the complex prompted a call for additional units.

When firefighters went to the rear of the complex, they found a car on fire in a carport, the post states. "Crews mounted an aggressive attack and were able to prevent the flames from entering the apartments above," the post states.

Two apartments had slight smoke damage, but no residents were displaced. There also were no injuries.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160805/car-fire-put-out-before-it-could-damage-san-bernardino-apartments>

Firefighters Extinguish Burrtec Truck Fire in Victorville

Victor Valley News

Posted: August 5, 2016



(photo by Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif : (VVNG.com)- **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to a Burrtec truck that caught fire on Friday afternoon.

The call was reported at about 4:13 p.m. on the 14200 block of Mc Art Road in Victorville.

According to the driver of the Burrtec truck, he was on his way to get gas when he suddenly smelled smoke. He looked through his side mirrors and saw smoke coming from the rear of the truck. He immediately stopped the truck in an empty lot and jumped out to safety.

A total of nine firefighters, one battalion chief, two engines and a ladder truck responded to the fire. When firefighters arrived heavy smoke was showing from the inside the large metal container where the trash is stored.

According to Battalion Chief Tim Porter, the truck was carrying about 2 tons of recyclables.

The CNG tanks atop of the truck posed a potential threat of an explosion. Burrtec officials at the scene were able to turn off the tanks essentially mitigating the threat.

The cab of the truck was not affected by the fire and no injuries were reported.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

<http://www.vvng.com/firefighters-extinguish-burrtec-truck-fire-in-victorville/>

Deceptively dangerous: Officials recommend residents steer clear of aqueduct

Jose Quintero, Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: August 6, 2016, 11:09 AM



California Department of Water Resources and San Bernardino County Fire Department officials warn that despite looking calm from a distance, the waters in the California Aqueduct can be very dangerous. David Pardo, Daily Press

HESPERIA — The death of a local man who recently fell into the California Aqueduct in Hesperia raises a question: How dangerous are the waters of the enormous system of canals, tunnels and pipelines that appear to be placid?

According to California Department of Water Resources spokeswoman Maggie Macias, the calm surface of the waters flowing through the aqueduct is very deceptive. Without warning, still waters can start flowing rapidly, creating turbulence and strong currents. Inverted pipelines used in the aqueduct to carry water under roadways, streams and railroad crossings can create suction currents that are not visible from the surface, Macias said.

San Bernardino County Fire Department spokesman Eric Sherwin said the aqueduct is an appealing body of water for those seeking relief from the heat, but he recommends staying away.

“If you want to admire this body of water, do so from a distance,” Sherwin said. “There are very nice walking paths that follow along the aqueduct but the warning signs are up for a reason. We recommend people take advantage of these paths but they should also stay away from the sides of the aqueduct. Those sides can be very slippery and steep.”

The California Aqueduct begins at the Banks Pumping Plant, in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and flows 444 miles south, ending in Lake Perris.

Swimming in the aqueduct is illegal.

However, fishing is allowed at designated areas. There are 16 designated fishing access sites, where anglers can catch a variety of fish, including catfish and striped bass. Bicycling and walking along the aqueduct is allowed at specific areas also. Locally, the Antelope Valley Bikeway spans 28 miles along the California Aqueduct, from Pearblossom to Hesperia.

The aqueduct has converging walls that are slippery and steep, authorities said. At the Banks Pumping Plant, the aqueduct measures 40 feet wide at bottom and 138 feet at its top. But the dimensions decrease as the aqueduct flows south.

In some places along the aqueduct, the water can be up to 30 feet wide, Macias said. Locally, Sherwin estimates the aqueduct's converging walls are 14 feet deep and the water is approximately 40 feet wide.

On any given day in the summer, Sherwin, who is on the Fire Department's dive team, said he believes the California Aqueduct water temperature in the High Desert is somewhere in the mid-70s. In the wintertime, the waters are commonly about 40 degrees, he said.

Swift water rescues are most common in the summertime, especially during the monsoon season when thunderstorms hitting the mountains cause water to rise in the Mojave Riverbed, the Deep Creek Spillway and on local roads. Specialized Swift Water Rescue engines and Heavy Rescue engines are filled with dry suits, inflatable boats, ropes, poles and equipment necessary for any rescue situation.

According to Macias, in the area where Michael Paul Croy Sr., of Hesperia, drowned last week, there have been six other deaths since 1983. Macias said Croy died in a section of the aqueduct labeled Pool 65.

However, the Daily Press has reported on seven other bodies being recovered locally from the aqueduct in the Victor Valley just since 2012.

Prior to Croy's death, the most recent death involving the aqueduct came when the body of an Adelanto man was pulled from the aqueduct near Highway 395, a day after his car went into the aqueduct on Dec. 23, 2015.

Witnesses reported seeing Brandon Figueroa, 20, escape out of the vehicle and attempt to stay afloat as the aqueduct pushed him further east. They walked next to him approximately 150 yards before losing track of him.

Sherwin said in the event you see a person or pet in the aqueduct you should not endanger yourself by jumping into the waters.

"We are trained to rescue somebody from the aqueduct," Sherwin said. "The best course of action is to call for help, make sure you follow and keep a close eye on the person or pet in the aqueduct so that we are quickly able to assess the scene and take the best course of action."

If you happen to fall in the water, Sherwin said the most important thing is not to panic.

Sherwin recommends looking for buoy lines located near the "big orange balls" near any of the bridges. The float lines, strung through large, round, red, orange or white styrofoam balls, are visible just above the water.

There are also safety ladders along the aqueduct, but Sherwin says they should not be relied on, especially if the current is swift and pushes you in the opposite direction.

But if you are unable to locate a ladder or line, Department of Water Resources officials recommend using the "drown-proofing" method to stay afloat.

"This method can keep you afloat until help comes and could save your life," a Department of Water Resources brochure reads. "First, relax your body in the water. Let the back of your head and your shoulders come to the surface. Next, pull your knees tightly in your chest and tread water with your arms."

"Every five to 10 seconds, raise your face out of the water and take a deep breath. Repeat the breathing as you continue to tread water with your knees up. This method, which will keep you afloat for a long time, will not tire you as much as swimming."

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160806/NEWS/160809801>