

NEWS

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board proclaims emergency for Hill Fire

The Board of Supervisors today proclaimed a local emergency as a result of the Hill Fire, which burned 1,158 acres in Oak Hills and Hesperia, destroyed two homes, and damaged two others.

The proclamation qualifies the county to receive financial assistance to cover its emergency response efforts, including a Federal Emergency Management Assistance Grant, for which the county received approval on Sept. 2. The estimated cost of fighting the fire is \$2 million. The county is gathering information on related costs.

Board of Supervisors Chair Josie Gonzales signed the proclamation on Saturday, Sept. 3. Today's ratification by the board was necessary to keep the proclamation in effect.

The fire began early in the afternoon on Friday, Sept. 2, adjacent to Interstate 15 near Oak Hills. A mandatory evacuation order was issued, affecting 1,500 residences in the Oak Hills area and Hesperia. A shelter site was set up for evacuees by the American Red Cross at the County Fairgrounds in Victorville. In addition, the County Public Health Animal Care and Control Division established an animal shelter site at the County Fairgrounds for both large and small animals. The fire was contained on Monday, Sept. 5.

According to the San Bernardino County Fire Department, 750 firefighters, 14 fixed-wing aircraft including a DC-10, and six helicopters were necessary to protect residences from destruction. Efforts are still in progress to deal with ash and debris. When the cleanup is complete, the board will be asked to terminate the emergency.