

NEWS

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Officials tour wildfire and pledge support to fire crews

San Bernardino County Supervisor Josie Gonzales today surveyed the area affected by the Sierra Fire and she and Supervisor Paul Biane committed all available resources to the fight against the blaze, which continues to threaten homes and businesses in Rialto, Fontana, and unincorporated areas of the County.

"This fire shows how quickly our county can go from absolute tranquility to very serious danger," Supervisor Gonzales said this morning after conducting an aerial survey of the wind-driven fire with County Administrative Officer Mark Uffer.

"I commend the County Fire Department and all of the agencies involved in this incident for their quick action and continued efforts to protect life and property," said Supervisor Paul Biane.

While in the air, Supervisor Gonzales was in communication with state and federal authorities inquiring into the availability of additional resources to fight the Sierra Fire.

The fire began today at 7:33 a.m. near the intersection of Sierra Ave and Interstate 15. As of 11:20 a.m. the fire was at more than 300 acres. Fifty fire engines and more than 150 firefighters were committed to the incident, along with three helicopters, one heavy-lift helicopter, and four fixed-wing aircraft. Forward spread of fire had been stopped.

Roads closures include Sierra Avenue in both directions between Interstate 210 and Interstate 15, and Riverside Avenue, both directions, between Sierra Avenue and Linden Avenue in Rialto.

As of 11:20 a.m. there were no mandatory residential evacuations in Rialto or Fontana. However, mandatory evacuations were underway for the commercial and industrial areas east of Sierra Avenue, south of Clubhouse Avenue, north of Interstate 210 and west of the Mid-Valley Landfill.

The San Bernardino County Emergency Operations Center was fully activated shortly after the fire began and will continue to monitor the situation.