



NEWS



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Fast-moving wildfires flare up across California; PG&E begins restoring power but warns of weekend blackout

John Bacon, Doyle Rice, Jorge L. Ortiz and Kristin Lam, USA TODAY

Posted: October 25, 2019 at 8:43am



SAN FRANCISCO — High winds and brittle conditions fueled fast-growing wildfires across California as utilities began restoring power to more than 200,000 homes and business that went dark in an effort to prevent blazes.

In Sonoma County, 75 miles north of San Francisco, the fast-growing Kincade Fire flared up late Wednesday and within hours covered more than 15 square miles. The National Weather Service reported wind gusts of up to 76 mph, prompting evacuation orders to remain in place for about 2,000 people in several communities.

"Leave immediately if you are in these locations," the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office warned, citing an "extraordinary threat to life or property."

As of 7 p.m. local time, Cal Fire said 49 buildings had been destroyed and that structures and power lines were threatened by the blaze. More than 1,300 firefighters were on the scene, backed by more than 100 engines, 17 air tankers and 25 bulldozers.

The blaze grew to 16,000 acres Thursday evening, Cal Fire incident commander Mike Parkes said at a news conference. Containment was at 5% and no injuries had been reported.

A smaller but fast-moving blaze also broke out in Marin County, just north of San Francisco. The fire had charred 58 acres and forced the closure of Highway 1, the iconic Pacific Coast Highway. Near a section of the highway in San Mateo County, a 75-acre blaze sparked late Thursday.

A pair of fires near Santa Clarita in Los Angeles County forced 50K evacuations. Southern California was not immune to the fire conditions, fires, or outages.

A wildfire broke out Thursday afternoon in Canyon Country in the northern section of Los Angeles County, where it was threatening homes. The smoke plume was visible across the Los Angeles basin.

The Tick Fire, driven by scorching winds and temperatures well above 90 degrees, had consumed 3,950 acres and was nearing the edges of upscale housing tracts. Four air tankers had been requested in addition to water-dropping helicopters, the Los Angeles County Fire Department said.

A few miles northeast near Castaic, a 20-acre brush fire temporarily closed part of Interstate 5 in the afternoon. It was contained by Thursday night, said Los Angeles County Fire Chief Daryl Osby.

About 50,000 people were ordered to evacuate their homes outside Los Angeles, mostly around Santa Clarita.

'It's very, very expensive': California power lines spark wildfires and prompt blackouts. Why not just bury them?

A fire in San Bernardino County, about 60 miles east of Los Angeles, was only about 100 acres, but evacuations were ordered early Thursday. Citing the outages and fire, California State University, San Bernardino canceled classes Thursday.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** warned the blaze, known as the Old Water Fire, had the "potential for large growth."

Southern California Edison cuts off power to nearly 31K customers

Southern California Edison had cut power to about 31,000 customers and warned that 386,000 more could see preemptive outages.

The bulk of the power outages, however, affected at least 500,000 people, were in central and northern California, where Pacific Gas & Electric has been warning for days that high winds forecast for the state could result in preemptive power shutoffs. Residents should be ready to be without power for 48 hours or more, the company said.

PG&E had restored power for about 150,000 customers by Thursday night, and said it expects all customers to have power by no later than Friday night.

Sonoma County Sheriff Mark Essick said the blackouts had not hampered efforts to inform people they had leave because authorities had learned to communicate through multiple platforms after previous blazes – especially the devastating Wine Country fires two years ago.

But he lamented that some residents still chose to stay despite the obvious danger.

"I know more people feel better prepared than they were two years ago," Essick said. "Many people have taken the time to prepare kits, prepare their homes for wildfire, but this is not the time to stay. This is the time to go. Please heed the evacuation order."

PG&E under fire: California governor slams PG&E, saying 'greed,' 'mismangement' led to widespread power cuts

The latest waves of outages come two weeks after gusty winds, high temperatures and parched conditions forced PG&E to shut off power to 2 million people, many for several days. That preemptive outage, or Public Safety Power Shutoff, fueled outrage from many residents, but PG&E defends the outages as crucial to the safety of its customers.

As part of a preliminary investigation, PG&E filed a report that one of its transmission lines went out in the Geysers area where the Kincade Fire burned Wednesday night. The utility did not preemptively shut off that transmission tower, a press release said.

Santa Ana winds in weekend forecast

The weather service in Los Angeles warned that due to the forecast of gusty Santa Ana winds both Thursday and Friday, there is "the potential for rapid fire growth and extreme fire behavior if ignition occurs."

Warm and dry conditions are also expected to persist in Northern California on Friday, forecasters said. Late Saturday through early Monday could also bring "the strongest wind event so far this fall," according to the weather service, possibly bringing more preemptive shutoffs.

PG&E acknowledged some of the same subscribers could be in for another blackout later in the weekend: "Customers should prepare by fully charging their communications, medical and other devices while the power remains on," PG&E said.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/10/24/kincade-san-bernardino-fires-shutoff-power-california-evacuations/2452820001/>

Nearly 20K Southern California Edison customers without power amid wildfire threat

Rob McMillan and ABC7.com staff

Posted: October 24, 2019



Power was preemptively shut off for more than 7,000 Southern California Edison customers in San Bernardino amid elevated fire risk Thursday.

Nearly 20,000 Southern California Edison customers across the Southland were without power Thursday as the utility preemptively shut off electricity to reduce the risk of fire.

The "public safety power shutoff" is aimed at lowering the threat of blazes erupting amid windy and arid conditions, SCE said.

According to Edison's website, 7,246 customers in San Bernardino County were without power and 2,710 in Ventura County were affected as of Thursday morning. Kern County saw more than 5,289 outages, 1,682 Los Angeles County customers were in the dark and 133 in Riverside County were impacted.

More than 286,000 customers were under consideration for shutoffs as of Thursday morning.

The outages are planned as the region expects to see a high potential for fire danger, with powerful Santa Ana winds and hot, dry conditions.

"We're looking at a recipe for an explosive fire. Should we get a fire that starts with wind on it to carry it from those ground fuels... into those now heavier fuels that are now dry and ready to burn," said Eric Sherwin with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Gov. Gavin Newsom met with emergency officials to be briefed on the ongoing fire threats and power shutoffs by utility companies. Newsom said in an extreme scenario, 308,000 customers could be affected by the outages.

In San Bernardino County, over 63,000 customers could be left in the dark. A wind-driven vegetation fire erupted along Highway 18 in San Bernardino in the early morning hours, prompting mandatory evacuations as the blaze burned at least 75 acres, officials said.

Cal State San Bernardino was closed Thursday in light of the high winds, fire danger and possible power outage. Campus officials will decide later in the day whether to remain closed Friday, when similar conditions are expected. The latest campus alerts can be found [here](#).

Some San Bernardino residents were frustrated with the outages.

"Food, the refrigerator, school - that's not planned if you're a working parent to have the kids not in school," Mayra Lorenzo said.

In Los Angeles County, more than 68,000 customers could be impacted by the shutoffs, and more than 23,000 customers in Orange County face the possibility.

More than 50,000 and 76,000 customers were under consideration in Riverside and Ventura counties, respectively.

SCE officials said the changing weather patterns are prompting the utility to monitor their power circuits.

"Turning off our customers' power is not something we take lightly, but PSPS events are one of the ways we can better ensure the safety of the public, our customers, and our employees," Edison said in a statement.

A red flag warning went into effect at 1 a.m. Thursday and is expected to last until 10 p.m. Friday amid projected 20-40 mph winds across much of Los Angeles and Ventura counties, according to the National Weather Service.

Temperatures will climb as high as 93 degrees as relative humidity drops to between 2 to 9%.

<https://abc7.com/19k-sce-customers-without-power-amid-wildfire-threat/5643627/>

Old Water Fire mandatory evacuations lifted in San Bernardino; containment rises to 30 percent after 105 acres burned

Marc Cota-Robles and Leticia Juarez

Posted: October 24, 2019



Firefighters battled a wind-driven brush fire that burned at least 105 acres and prompted evacuations in San Bernardino Thursday, officials said.

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (KABC) -- A wind-driven vegetation fire erupted early Thursday morning along Highway 18 in San Bernardino, prompting mandatory and voluntary evacuations as the blaze burned 105 acres Thursday, officials said.

The fire, dubbed the Old Water Fire, started near Old Waterman Canyon Road and Highway 18, according to **San Bernardino County Fire**. Officials said the fire burned 105 acres and was 30% contained by afternoon.

Structure protection was in place by crews as mandatory evacuation orders were underway for Arrowhead Road and a portion of north San Bernardino near Mariposa Drive and David Way, according to San Bernardino National Forest officials. About 80 homes were affected by the initial evacuation.

"We got woken up at 2 a.m. and got told we were possibly going to have to evacuate," said Jessica Fischer. "I'm nervous. I'm not used to this situation, it's a little concerning. My family is still up there. They haven't left the house yet, so I'm waiting for them to come up the hill."

An evacuation center was set up at San Geronimo High School at 2299 Pacific Street.

Voluntary evacuations were lifted by noon, but Highway 18 remained closed until 6 p.m. and mandatory evacuations in other areas remained in place. Around 8 p.m., evacuation areas reopened to residents with proper identification only.

Officials said around 4 a.m. the fire was moving southward and to the northeast in the Coldwater Canyon area and "had potential for large growth" as Santa Ana winds intensify.

It was not immediately known how the fire started. California Highway Patrol officers responded to the area following reports of possible fireworks or a type of explosion, but officials said the cause remained under investigation.

The blaze was burning approximately five miles from the Cal State San Bernardino campus, which is closed Thursday.

Firefighters were on scene as early as 2:20 a.m. battling the blaze, which officials said was burning at rapid rate of spread. San Bernardino firefighters had two bulldozers, hand crews, four engines and two chief officers respond to the scene.

A portion of Highway 18, between 40th Street in San Bernardino and Highway 138 in Crestline, was closed.

Forest Service firefighters were tackling the blaze, alongside county firefighters.

<https://abc7.com/old-water-fire-prompts-mandatory-san-bernardino-evacuations/5643118/>

Fire in Castaic Razed At Least 5 Homes to the Ground

Staff Reporter, Nature World News

Posted: October 25, 2019



Two firefighters discuss a plan while battling the one of the fires in California. October 24, 2019. REUTERS/Stephen Lam (Photo : REUTERS/Stephen Lam)

A bush fire caused by aggressive winds destroyed at least five homes in Castaic on Thursday. The blaze quickly broke out after a fire erupted in Canyon Country.

Authorities believe winds, speeding at about 40 mph, blew ashes from the Tick fire into the bush in other fields, sparking the other blaze in Southern California.

The fire was initially dubbed The Old Fire but was later deemed to be an extension of the Tick Fire. Flares could be seen going uphill behind a row of homes on The Old Road.

Fires have burned more than 3,900 acres and relocated more than 50,000 people in the area. Officials said they are now handling all fires as the Tick fire.

"Because of the wind, you had embers cast throughout the area in separate directions," said Los Angeles County Fire Capt. Tony Imbrenda.

The Castaic fire began about 3:15 p.m. near Lake Hughes Road, off the 5 Freeway.

Initial reports put the fire at three acres. Heavy winds drove flames to a rapid rate of spread, growing to more than seven acres, burning several homes along a hillside area. By about 7 p.m., the fire had stopped its spread and authorities reopened the 5 Freeway at the same time.

Evacuations were ordered for the residents in the area of 14 Freeway, east of Whites/Plum Canyon, south of Vasquez Canyon and west of Agua Dolce while firefighters defended the structures on the grassy hillsides. Authorities directed evacuees to various evacuation sites in Santa Clarita.

Hundreds of firefighters from Orange County, Ventura County, and San Bernardino County assisted in the Los Angeles County crews in the area to eliminate the fire. Air tankers and helicopters deployed in the area made water drops throughout the affected region.

In a news report from Fox5 San Diego, **San Bernardino County** fire spokesperson Eric Sherwin attributed the proactive positioning of other means to eliminate the fire - 10 fire engines and four hand crews - in nearby Devore with support to limit the damage done by the Old Water fire.

About 5 miles south of Castaic, a separate fire in Val Verde sparked among a group of mobile homes, authorities said. Four mobile homes burned in that blaze near the intersection of San Martinez Road and Chiquito Canyon Road.

The firefighters prepared to shore up the line around the fire late at night to prevent the blaze from spreading over containment lines, **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesperson Tracey Martinez said.

The challenge Thursday night and Friday continues to be the weather, firefighter team leaders heard at a windblown command post evening briefing at Wildwood Park in San Bernardino.

With Santa Ana winds creating dangerous conditions that could spread wildfires, Southern California Edison cut the power Thursday to up to 31,000 customers and was considering cutting power to areas that serve 386,000 more.

<https://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/42387/20191025/fire-castaic-ablazed-5-homes.htm>

Old Water fire in San Bernardino grows to 145 acres, now 55% contained

Alma Fausto, Orange County Register

Posted: October 25, 2019



A hand crew from Oregon snuffs out burning embers at a hot spot they found on the southeastern edge of the Old Water fire near 40th Street in San Bernardino Friday morning Oct 25, 2019. San Bernardino County Fire stated Friday morning the fire has burned 145 acres and is 55% contained. All evacuations have been lifted and all roads in the area are open. The cause of the fire, which started in the early morning hours on Thursday, is currently unknown. (Photo by Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

Containment grew overnight on the Old Water fire in San Bernardino, increasing to 55%.

By Friday morning, Oct. 25, **San Bernardino County fire** officials said the blaze had scorched 145 acres along Highway 18 in Waterman Canyon.

Firefighters worked overnight to try to build a strong line around the Old Water fire on the edge of the San Bernardino National Forest. A high-wind warning is in effect until 2 p.m. while a red-flag warning remains in place through 5 p.m.

Fanned by strong winds, the blaze prompted about 80 homes to be evacuated, however, residents were allowed to return late Thursday, when fire officials announced they were lifting the evacuation orders at 8 p.m.

All roads are now open, however, fire officials warn motorists be cautious when in the areas near the fire footprint. "Use caution, as fire crews will be in the area building fire containment lines," they said via Twitter.

MORE: This map shows where the Old Water fire is burning

The wind-driven vegetation blaze ignited in the wee hours on Thursday, very close to where the Old Fire started on Oct. 25, 2003, and crept into neighborhoods.

No structures were reported to have been damaged although the flames did come close to many homes. No injuries have been reported.

As the blaze continued into its second day, it marked the 16-year anniversary of another major fire in the area, the similarly named: Old Fire. That fire went on to burn thousands of acres when it merged with the Grand Prix fire and led to six deaths.

This was the second fire in San Bernardino in a week driven by powerful Santa Ana winds. On Monday, the Little Mountain fire destroyed two homes, damaged six others and resulted with half a dozen people being injured.

Because of high fire danger, officials with the the San Bernardino National Forest, citing elevated fire danger, have banned campfires on forest lands starting Friday, Oct. 25. The campfire order is due to expire Dec. 31.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/10/25/old-water-fire-in-san-bernardino-continues-to-burn-as-strong-winds-remain-in-forecast/>

Fast moving brush fire damages homes in San Bernardino

Staff Writer, Redlands Community News

Posted: October 24, 2019



The wind-driven Little Mountain Fire started at 4:52 p.m. Monday. Eight homes were damaged. Redlands Community News photo by Alejandro Cano.

The Little Mountain Fire that started Monday afternoon injured six people and damaged eight homes, two of which are now uninhabitable, according to the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

At 4:52 p.m. crews were dispatched to a reported vegetation fire in the area of 39th Street & North Severence Way near Little Mountain in San Bernardino. The first engine arrived within four minutes of dispatch to find a 5-acre vegetation fire, which was slope and wind driven with a rapid rate of spread.

The fire was rapidly spreading up Little Mountain toward nearby homes. By 9 p.m. the fire's progression had been stopped at 17 acres.

Of the 40 homes immediately threatened, three were heavily damaged and an additional six structures received minor to moderate damage.

Two firefighters received minor to moderate injuries, were treated at a local hospital and since have been released. A family of four — two adults and two children — were also transported to a local hospital with smoke inhalation and minor burns. They were injured while evacuating their home. Red Cross was requested to assist with displaced residents & to facilitate their needs. San Bernardino County Fire responded with nine engines, six chief officers, a dozer, two water tenders, four hand crews, three overhead personnel and two fire investigators.

The county fire department received multiple engines from our cooperating fire agencies to assist in the fire fight and to provide for structure defense. CalFire provided two chief officers and three Engines. Departments from Highland, Redlands, San Manuel Indian Reservation, Colton and Rialto helped battle the blaze.

https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/public_safety/fast-moving-brush-fire-damages-homes-in-san-bernardino/article_044e426c-f690-11e9-b327-db68e97bff27.html

Evacuation orders lifted as wind-driven Old Water Fire burns 75 acres in San Bernardino

Kelli Johnson, FOX 11 Los Angeles

Posted: October 25, 2019



Old Water Fire burns in San Bernardino

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. - Evacuation orders were lifted and traffic was opened in both directions near Highway 18 and 40th street after a wildfire sparked Thursday morning.

The fire was 30% contained with 75 acres burned.

The Old Water Fire was reported near Old Waterman Canyon Road at Highway 18 around 2:15 a.m., **San Bernardino County Fire** said. Arriving fire officials estimated the wind-driven fire was initially at 30-35 acres and quickly ballooned to 75 acres with the potential for more growth as Santa Ana winds picked up. Firefighters were able to stop the forward progress of the blaze, according to San Bernardino National Forest.

Some residents were under mandatory evacuation orders as winds reached gusts up to 50 mph on the hilltops.

Voluntary evacuations were lifted around 1 p.m. According to the fire department at 8 p.m., all evacuation areas reopened to residents with proper identification.

A reported 400 firefighters, 50 engines, 1 dozer, 5 crews, 3 water tenders, 1 helicopter, and 1 air attack fixed wing were on scene fighting the blaze.

San Bernardino National Forest was the lead agency handling the fire.

Mandatory evacuation orders were issued for residents in 83 homes located east of Waterman Avenue, north of 40th Street, and west of Harrison Canyon Road.

Highway 18 was closed between 40th Street in San Bernardino and Highway 168 in Crestline.

Lake Gregory Drive was also closed at Highway 18.

Voluntary evacuations were issued for all homes north of Foothill Drive between Del Rose Avenue and Manzanita Drive in San Bernardino and were lifted just before noon.

All evacuation orders were lifted by Thursday night.

An evacuation center was established for evacuees at San Geronimo High School at 2299 Pacific Street, San Bernardino, CA 92404.

The San Bernardino City Animal Control located at 333 Chandler Place, San Bernardino, CA 92408 announced they would temporarily take in smaller animals.

Those with horses or livestock were asked to contact animal control for further information by calling 909-384-1304.

The public can call the public information call center at 909-383-5688.

The cause of the fire was under investigation.

<https://www.foxla.com/news/evacuation-orders-lifted-as-wind-driven-old-water-fire-burns-75-acres-in-san-bernardino>

Old Water fire burns 105 acres; evacuation orders lifted

Richard K. De Atley, SB Sun

Posted: October 24, 2019



San Bernardino County Fire Captain Craig Mashburn sprays water as crews work to contain the Old Water Fire burning behind homes in the 4700 block of David Way in San Bernardino on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019. (Photo by Watchara Phomicinda, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

The Old Water fire that raced toward homes early Thursday morning, Oct. 24, along Highway 18 in Waterman Canyon was stoked by the afternoon winds as it moved toward 40th Street in San Bernardino.

The afternoon flareup increased the scorched acreage to 105.

“I was convinced it was completely done,” said Sam Catalano, who lives on Mariposa Lane, referring to the fire. “It looked like they had put out all the hot spots, and then there was a wall of flame – you could see it, big smoke coming up just around the curve of the hill.”

The blaze ignited in the early morning hours on Thursday, near Old Waterman Canyon Road and Highway 18, very near where the Old Fire started on Oct. 25, 2003, 16 years ago, and led to evacuations of about 80 homes in the area.

No homes had been lost in the fire, officials with **San Bernardino County fire** said about 4 p.m. However, the flames did come close. No injuries were reported.

Firefighters from the California Office of Emergency Services were parked along Mariposa Lane and quickly ran lines to the backyards of homes as the fire kicked up in the afternoon. The flareup did not prompt any new evacuation orders; however, fire officials warned residents to be ready.

The flareup raced along a creek bed filled with brush and then down an embankment from homes on Mariposa Lane. A small creek actually still flows through the middle of the bed.

“Within a matter of like, less than five minutes ... It came right on by,” Catalano said. “It was pretty windy then and between the ashes and the smoke, it’s hard to tell what’s happening.”

Containment remained at 30 percent, even after the flare-up, as 400 personnel worked to quell the flames, according to officials with the San Bernardino National Forest.

The cause of the fire was under investigation.

Mandatory and voluntary evacuations for the area were lifted by 8 p.m.

San Bernardino County fire spokesman Eric Sherwin credited the proactive positioning of extra resources — 10 fire engines and four hand crews — in nearby Devore with helping limit the damage done by the Old Water fire. Such strike teams usually would take hours to assemble and arrive, Sherwin said.

“This was an excellent demonstration of how flooding an incident early on can make a huge difference,” Sherwin said.

Overnight, firefighters planned to shore up the line around the fire to keep it from spreading over containment lines, **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokeswoman Tracey Martinez said.

The challenge Thursday night and Friday continues to be the weather, firefighter team leaders heard at a windblown command post evening briefing at Wildwood Park in San Bernardino.

Santa Ana winds were expected to continue through the night and into Friday afternoon. High temperatures Friday were expected in the low 90s, and humidity at 5%.

With Santa Ana winds creating dangerous conditions that could spread wildfires, Southern California Edison cut power Thursday to up to 31,000 customers and was considering cutting power to areas that serve 386,000 more.

Cal State San Bernardino was closed Thursday because of concerns about high winds and the possibility that power could be shut down. The campus will be open on Friday, officials announced on Twitter Thursday afternoon.

Paakuma’ K-8, closed Thursday due to the power shutoff, will remain closed on Friday, the San Bernardino City Unified school said on its website.

A red-flag warning is also in place for the area where the Old Water fire is burning. Much of Southern California is under the red-flag warning through 5 p.m. Friday evening.

On Thursday morning, Chehab El Awar and his wife, Bricia, took a back road in their off-road vehicle to look at the Old Water fire’s path.

They live on David Way, one of the areas ordered to evacuate, but chose to stay put.

El Awar said he didn’t leave because he believes he is “ready,” adding that he has a clearance around his home he estimated to be around 300 feet by 400 feet.

In the wee hours, the couple saw firefighters moving up the hill “like a centipede ... Into the flames, and they cut anything that comes in their way,” El Awar said.

Bricia said she kept repeating “get ready, get ready, get ready” as the fire initially grew. But as it tamed, the couple made coffee for firefighters and let them use a bathroom.

The fast-moving blaze also forced the closure of Highway 18 in San Bernardino between 40th Street and Highway 138 in Crestline, officials said.

The Old Water fire has brought back memories for some in the area, this blaze ignited on the eve of the 16-year anniversary of the Old Fire. That fire went on to burn thousands of acres, when it combined with the Grand Prix fire, and led to six deaths.

This was the second fire in San Bernardino this week, driven by the Santa Ana winds. On Monday, the Little Mountain fire in the city destroyed two homes, damaged six others and led to six people being injured.

The cause of that fire remains under investigation.

While Southern California is being pummeled from Santa Ana winds, Northern California is also feeling the effects.

PG&E has identified hundreds of thousands of customers that could lose power and the Kincadee fire exploded overnight in Sonoma County, churning through 10,000 acres and leading to the evacuation of 2,000 people.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/10/24/brush-fire-in-san-bernardino-prompts-evacuations-and-threatens-homes/>

Fire damages home in Fawnskin

Staff Writer, Big Bear Grizzly

Posted: October 25, 2019



Fire crews responded to reports of a structure fire in Fawnskin just before 9 a.m. Oct. 25.

Fire and smoke were seen coming from the single-family home on Canyon Road when crews from Big Bear Fire and **San Bernardino County fire** departments arrived. The fire appears to have started in a workshop attached to the home, according to authorities. Firefighters contained the fire to the workshop area and knocked the fire down quickly.

No one was injured. The two occupants of the residence were able to exit safely.

San Bernardino County Fire's Medic Engine 96 out of Fawnskin was first on-scene. Big Bear Fire Department's Interim Battalion Chief Luke Wagner took command of the incident upon arrival and retained command through duration of the incident. A CalFire engine was also assisted crews with suppression efforts. The US Forest Service was on-scene to assure there was no threat to nearby vegetation.

http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/fire-damages-home-in-fawnskin/article_ff020d98-f752-11e9-b6f5-fb2d386ef438.html

Old Water Fire Closes Highway 18

Staff Writer, Mountain News

Posted: October 24, 2019



Update (2:23 p.m.): The fire has burned additional acreage and is now 105 acres. it remains at 30% containment.

Update (2:17 p.m.): The fire has rekindled and threatens a structure. Six air tankers and six helicopters have been dispatched.

Update (12:08 p.m.): A Tweet from the Forest Service said that "The voluntary evacuation for north of Foothill Dr. b/w Del Rosa Ave. and Manzanita Dr. has been lifted." See link at the bottom of the article.

At approximately 2 a.m. on Oct. 24, a fire broke out in Waterman Canyon and quickly spread to cover over 75 acres by dawn.

Mandatory evacuations of residences located on Arrowhead Road off of Waterman Canyon, as well as Mariposa Drive and David Way near 40th Street were initiated.

San Bernardino Sheriffs, San Bernardino City Police, **San Bernardino County Fire**, and the U.S. Forestry Service were all stationed at a staging area in the parking lot of Wild Wood Park, coordinating efforts to tackle the wind-driven blaze and aid in evacuating residents as needed.

Highway 18 was shut down from 40th street in San Bernardino through to the 138 Interchange, and all the way to Crestline Cutoff traffic light by Hortencia's at the Cliffhanger.

By 11:22 a.m. the fire was 30% contained with no growth.

Zach Behrens, Public Affairs Officer with the U.S. Forest Service said that road closures and re-population will be reevaluated at 6 p.m. or sooner depending on the progress firefighters are able make.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_35130112-f68b-11e9-8145-aff748617d55.html