



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Chief / Fire Warden



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Gel Task Force Responds to the Blue Ridge Fire

Date/Time: October 26, 2020
Location: Chino Hills and Yorba Linda
Incident: Strike Team Deployment to the “Blue Ridge Fire”

Summary: Monday evening, San Bernardino County Fire’s “Gel Task Force” responded to assist with the Blue Ridge Fire burning adjacent to Chino Hills and Yorba Linda. San Bernardino County Fire’s Gel Task Force consists of 5 Type VI Brush Patrol Units, a Strike Team / Task Force Leader, a Water Tender and a Utility Vehicle. This unique combination has been deployed multiple times around California with great success.

The Type VI Brush Patrols are smaller, more agile units that can access smaller rounds and utilize specialized “gel” allowing our crews to pre-treat homes ahead of the fire front. Each Brush Patrol holds 300 Gallons of water, a pump, hose/tool compliment and is staffed with a Captain, Engineer and Firefighter. A Water Tender staffed with an Engineer and Captain is attached to the Task Force to assist with water supply. The Utility Vehicle is staffed by a firefighter and brings additional gel and supplies to ensure the Task Force is well-supplied. The Task Force is led by a Strike Team Leader (Battalion Chief) and a Strike Team Leader Trainee.

The gel used is stored in concentrate form, then mixed with water to create a fire prevention and heat absorbing gel. Gel adheres to any kind of surface, even to vertical window panes and forms a protective layer of gel that cools and protects objects from heating, charring and flame impingement. Gels used are also biodegradable and can be washed off homes or surfaces after the threat subsides.

The Blue Ridge Fire has burned more than 14,000 acres with thousands of homes threatened. The 20-person task force has been busy working on pre-treating homes and pre-planning in the Chino Hills area. Crews can be deployed for 14 - 21 days. While the Task Force is deployed our local stations remain fully staffed and ready to respond.

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