



# NEWS



## News Headlines 09/08/2016

- Update 7: Full Response To Springs Fire – 50 Acres – Containment Expected Thursday
- Update: Crews making good progress on Spring Fire in Hesperia
- Fire crews, aircraft slow 35-acre Spring fire near Hesperia
- Spring Fire Burns 50 Acres; Full Containment Expected Thursday
- Breaking: Vegetation Fire Erupts Near Summit Valley
- Fire officials: Spring Fire 80 percent contained, full containment expected by noon
- Unsung heroes
- County leaders double down on unity, highlight internal harmony during yearly event
- Update: Firefighters Dispatched To Wildland Fire In Cedarpines Park – Fire Out
- The Ins and Outs of Evacuation

## Update 7: Full Response To Springs Fire – 50 Acres – Containment Expected Thursday

Michael P. Neufeld, Rim of the World News

Posted: September 7, 2016, 5:14 PM



The latest information on the Springs Fire is that it is 50 acres. (Photo by San Bernardino County Fire)



The San Bernardino County Sheriff Department's Aviation Division dispatched two choppers to the Springs Fire. (Photo by San Bernardino County Fire)

UPDATE 7: Thursday, September 8 – 3 a.m.

Silverwood Lake – **San Bernardino County Fire** is showing the Springs Fire at 50 acres. Full containment is expected Thursday.

UPDATE 6: Wednesday, September 7 – 7:15 p.m.

Silverwood Lake – “Air Attack” is now reporting the Springs Fire near Silverwood Lake is holding at 30-35 acres.

UPDATE 5: Wednesday, September 7 – 6:25 p.m.

Silverwood Lake – The Springs Fire is now at 40 acres and is now under a unified command..

A new Command Post has been established at the Cedar Springs Dam off Forest Service Road 2N33, according to San Bernardino County Fire.

The fire is advancing at a moderate rate of spread.

Highway 173 is closed and Highway 138 remains open, according to the California Highway Patrol.

UPDATE 4: Wednesday, September 7 – 6:05 p.m.

Silverwood Lake – Chopper arte dipping from Silverwood Lake. The Incident Commander has requested that the lake patrol clear the area near the northwest corner of the lake.

UPDATE 3: Wednesday, September 7 – 5:55 p.m.

Silverwood Lake – San Bernardino County Fire is reporting the Springs Fire has grown to 30 acres with a moderate rate of spread.

There is no current structure threat, according to County Fire.

UPDATE 2: Wednesday, September 7 – 5:49 p.m.

Silverwood Lake – The Springs Fire is now reported at over 10 acres with a moderate rate of spread, according to San Bernardino County Fire.

Highway 173 has been closed, according to information provided by the California Highway Patrol. A San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Deputy staffed the closure until a CHP unit could arrive on scene.

UPDATE: Wednesday, September 7 – 5:33 p.m.

Silverwood Lake – The Springs Fire — reported just after 5 p.m. — is located in the City of Hesperia, according to the San Bernardino National Forest.

Multiple agencies are sending crews to the fire including Big Bear Fire.

#### ORIGINAL STORY

Silverwood Lake, CA – A full response to the Springs Fire near Silverwood Lake and the junction of Highway 138 and Highway 173 was reported shortly after 5 p.m., according to the U.S. Forest Service and CALFIRE.

Units are moving into the area and motorists are advised to avoid the area.

Aircraft are on order, according to [socalmountains.com](http://socalmountains.com)

Additional details will be posted as they become available.

<http://rotwnews.com/2016/09/07/full-response-to-spring-fire-near-junction-of-highway-138-and-highway-173/>

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## Update: Crews making good progress on Spring Fire in Hesperia

Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: September 7, 2016, 5:42 PM



CalFire firefighters work their way through heavy vegetation while battling the Spring Fire near Summit Valley on Wednesday. James Quigg, Daily Press

**HESPERIA** — A vegetation fire erupted in south Hesperia and burned 50 acres late Wednesday afternoon.

Dubbed the Spring Fire, the blaze was first reported at 4:50 p.m. and quickly spread to more than 30 acres in a little over an hour. An aggressive air attack has halted the spread of the fire and it was holding at 50 acres with 50 percent containment

Hesperia resident Vernetta Hansen told the Daily Press that she and her husband, Scott, smelled smoke and thought someone might be barbecuing, but quickly realized it was a fire.

"I told my husband there was a fire and he called 911," said Hansen, who lives off Highway 173 near Las Flores Ranch Road. "Within a minute of (smelling) the smoke, we could see flames, but it was blowing away from our house, moving north."

Numerous personnel responded to the scene, which was near where the recent Pilot Fire had burned, with approximately 50 firefighters, five engines, one hand crew, two brush patrols, one bulldozer and two helicopters were assigned to battle the blaze, with Cal Fire and the San Bernardino National Forest Service assisting **San Bernardino County Fire**.

County Fire Assistant Chief Ron Walls told the Daily Press that crews were making good progress as of 6:30 p.m. and that the fire lines were helping to contain the spread of the blaze.

Walls said fire officials were hoping that if the winds died down as the sun set that crews would be able to manage full containment by Wednesday evening.

Hard closures were issued for Hwy 138 and Summit Valley Road, as well as Hwy 173 and Lake Arrowhead Road, and according to officials at the scene they were expected to remain in place throughout the night.

The Spring Fire is the latest in a series of fires to hit the Victor Valley hard, with the Pilot, Bluecut and Ken fires burning more than 45,000 acres over the last month and prompting evacuation orders for more than 80,000 residents, including the Hansens.

"We've packed and loaded up twice, evacuated once," Hansen said. "We are pretty tired of it at this point."

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20160907/update-crews-making-good-progress-on-spring-fire-in-hesperia>

## Fire crews, aircraft slow 35-acre Spring fire near Hesperia

Richard Brooks, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: September 7, 2016, 6:51 PM



Firefighters and supporting aircraft are tackling a fast-moving blaze that burned about 40 acres Wednesday afternoon near south Hesperia. (Courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department)



Firefighters and supporting aircraft are tackling a fast-moving blaze that burned about 40 acres Wednesday afternoon near south Hesperia. (Courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department)

Diminishing winds and a heavy air attack helped fire crews gain the upper hand on a 35-acre wildfire that began Wednesday afternoon near the Silverwood Lake spillway south of Hesperia.

“They’ve been able to slow the forward rate of spread,” **San Bernardino County Fire Department** Capt. Dan Nelson said shortly before 7 p.m. “We would expect it to start slow down (further) with nightfall. Typically, that’s what happens.”

The blaze, dubbed the “Spring fire,” was reported shortly before 5 p.m. in the general area of the Silverwood Lake dam, east of the junction of Highways 138 and 173.

“It’s spotting ahead of itself,” said San Bernardino National Forest spokeswoman John Miller. “It’s going to continue to run out towards the desert.”

The crew of a forest service fire engine was the first to arrive, but the San Bernardino County Fire Department is responsible for the incident because the flames are burning within the city of Hesperia, according to initial reports.

About 5:30 p.m., a county fire department spokeswoman said early estimates pegged the fire at 10 to 15 acres. Fifteen minutes later, dispatchers were told the size was roughly 30 acres.

Winds at 15 to 20 mph were spurring the flames, Cal Fire officials said. However, no buildings were threatened, according to reports from the scene.

County fire has about 50 firefighters assigned to the incident, as well as five engines, a hand crew, two brush patrols, one dozer and 2 sheriff's helicopters, officials said via Twitter.

The good news: By 6 p.m., the speed of the fire was lessening.

“They said ‘moderate rate of spread,’” Martinez said, “So they’re slowing it down.

Earlier Wednesday afternoon, a two-acre fire was stopped in Barton Flats, near Lobo Ono group camp, off of Highway 38 south of Big Bear City.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20160907/fire-crews-aircraft-slow-35-acre-spring-fire-near-hesperia>

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## Spring Fire Burns 50 Acres; Full Containment Expected Thursday

Victor Valley News

Posted: September 7, 2016



(photo by Steven Brittain)

HESPERIA, CA:(VVNG.com)- The Spring Fire in the city of Hesperia has burned 50 acres and full containment is expected Thursday morning, officials said.

On Wednesday, September 7th, 2016 at 4:50 p.m. **San Bernardino County Fire** received reports of a vegetation fire near forest service road 2N33 and the Cedar Springs Dam near Lake Silverwood.

Due to the area being in the mutual threat zone for both local, federal and state responsibility areas a response from County Fire, Cal Fire, and the United States Forest Service was dispatched. This response included aircraft as well as multiple engine companies, hand crews, and bulldozers.

With a threat to the City of Hesperia's jurisdiction as well as State responsibility area; San Bernardino County Fire Department and Cal Fire entered into a unified command.

First arriving crews from the Forest Service reported an approximately 1/4 acre wind driven fire moving into medium to heavy brush. Subsequent arriving ground resources supported hose lays and handline construction. The operation on the ground was supported by numerous fixed and rotary wing aircraft including San Bernardino Sheriff Air Rescue 306. By nightfall, it was reported that aggressive air attack and ground resources had halted the spread of the fire and it was holding at approximately 50 acres. There are no structures threatened and incident commanders hope to reach full containment sometime tomorrow morning.

Today's incident dubbed the "Spring Fire" occurred just west of where the Pilot Fire threatened numerous homes on August 7th of this year. The Pilot Fire burned over 8,000 acres and was contained several days later. Today's incident was located within the City limits of Hesperia and thanks to the multi-agency effort this fire was kept from spreading further into the city limits.

Crews will remain on scene throughout the night securing containment lines and mopping up hotspots. At the time of this release, the fire is considered to be 50% contained and there are no injuries to firefighters or civilians and the cause is under investigation.

<http://www.vvng.com/spring-fire-burns-50-acres-full-containment-expected-thursday/>

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## Breaking: Vegetation Fire Erupts Near Summit Valley

Victor Valley News

Posted: September 7, 2016



(Photo by Tina RG)

—updates—

6:15 PM – The fire is now at 40 acres with a moderate rate of spread, per **San Bernardino County Fire**.

6:10 PM – Current resources assigned to the Spring Fire include: approx. 50 Firefighters, 5 engines, 1 hand crew, 2 brush patrols, 1 dozer, 2 @sbcountysheriff helo's.

5:46 PM – Hard road closure at Lake Arrowhead Road and highway 173.

5:45 PM- The Spring Fire is now at 30 acres with a moderate rate of spread.

5:43 PM – The Spring Fire is burning in the area of Las Flores Ranch.

5:40 PM- Setting up a roadblock at Summit Valley Road and Highway 138

5:35 PM- Per scanner traffic, there are two fires burning. One on the north and the other on the south.

5:25 PM- A water dropping helicopter is overhead on the fire.

—original article—

SUMMIT VALLEY, CA:(VVNG.com)- Firefighters are responding to a vegetation fire burning just north of the dam on Highway 173 near State Route 138.

The fire was reported by a Park Ranger at about 4:55 p.m. on Wednesday, September 7th, 2016.

Per scanner traffic, as of 5:10 p.m. the fire is a quarter acre in size and has been dubbed the Spring Fire.

Dispatch is receiving numerous calls from residents in Hesperia, Apple Valley, Oak Hills, and Pinon Hills.

Information will be updated as it becomes available.

<http://www.vvng.com/breaking-vegetation-fire-erupts-near-summit-valley/>

## **Fire officials: Spring Fire 80 percent contained, full containment expected by noon**

Jose Quintero, Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: September 8, 2016, 7:38 AM



San Bernardino County Fire, and several other area fire agencies battled the Spring Fire in Summit Valley on Wednesday September 7, 2016. (James Quigg, Daily Press)

HESPERIA — Fire officials said the Spring Fire was 80 percent contained Thursday morning and 100 percent containment is expected by noon.

**San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Jeff Allen said blaze, which was near where the recent Pilot Fire had burned, has burned 50 acres. The Pilot Fire burned over 8,000 in the San Bernardino Mountains and Summit Valley on Aug, exactly a month before the Spring Fire.

Allen said fire crews will continue to mop up, secure the remaining open fire line and will also reinforce existing containment lines on Thursday.

“The threat has significantly decreased and there is no further spread expected and there are not currently any structures threatened by the fire,” Allen said.

The blaze was reported a little before 5 p.m. and quickly spread to more than 30 acres in a little over an hour. Allen said responding firefighters arrived and found a wind driven fire, less than an acre in size and moving into nearby brush.

Approximately 50 firefighters, five engines, one hand crew, two brush patrols, one bulldozer and two helicopters were assigned to battle the blaze, with Cal Fire and the San Bernardino National Forest Service assisting San Bernardino County Fire.

The aggressive air attack halted the spread of the fire into the evening.

Hard closures were issued for Hwy 138 and Summit Valley Road, as well as Hwy 173 and Lake Arrowhead Road, but they have since been lifted, according to Allen.

The Spring Fire is the latest in a series of fires to hit the Victor Valley, with the Pilot, Bluecut and Ken fires burning more than 45,000 acres over the last month and prompting evacuation orders for more than 80,000 residents.

<http://www.vvdaily.com/news/20160908/fire-officials-spring-fire-80-percent-contained-full-containment-expected-by-noon>

## Unsung heroes

Mildred Henry, Ph.D., Letters to the editor, Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: September 7, 2016, 9:07AM

Each time I travel to and from my home and see the devastation caused by the Cajon Bluecut Fire, I utter a prayer of thanks for the firemen who did a magnificent job of protecting property and lives. I marvel at how the fire burned right up to and around the houses, yet the firemen were able to save people's homes and possessions.

Firemen came from near and far to fight the blaze and it is amazing how valiantly they fought and contained the inferno. These true unsung heroes do a Herculean job every day protecting their fellow citizens. For this we say thank you!

Mildred Henry, Ph.D.  
Oak Hills

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/opinion/20160907/letters-to-editor>

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## County leaders double down on unity, highlight internal harmony during yearly event

Shea Johnson, Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: September 7, 2016, 2:26 PM



San Bernardino County Assessor Bob Dutton speaks during the State of the County event on Wednesday. Shea Johnson, Daily Press.

VICTORVILLE — Eighteen months ago, San Bernardino County CEO Greg Devereaux told a State of the Region audience that regional leaders had moved beyond working in factions and were a collaborative force to be reckoned with.

On Wednesday, Devereaux and other top county officials doubled down on that message of "breaking down the silos." The intra-county partnership was largely credited for successful efforts against the Pilot Fire and more devastating Bluecut Fire last month, with 3rd District Supervisor James Ramos hinting at the alliance's future.

"You'll see it stronger in San Bernardino County," he said, "than you've ever seen it before."

Wednesday's State of the County crowd at the Hilton Garden Inn gave a standing ovation to first responders of the recent fires. Then, one by one, 1st District Supervisor Robert Lovingood introduced Devereaux, Ramos,

Sheriff John McMahon, District Attorney Mike Ramos, Superintendent of Schools Ted Alejandre, Auditor-Controller Oscar Valdez and Assessor Bob Dutton.

Representing the trumpeted and formidable united front, the county leaders gave short presentations about their respective departments while lauding the county team and not-so-subtly drawing a wedge between the current state of affairs and the internal dynamic of years' past.

DA Ramos described the county chiefs as the "most ethical people that I've worked with in my 13 1/2 years as District Attorney." He applauded Lovingood for the supervisor's press to combat welfare fraud and vowed the DA's office would remain committed to trying to wrap its hands around other quality-of-life issues such as Proposition 47, which has reduced the severity of certain crimes.

With three decades in law enforcement under his belt, McMahon suggested the cooperation within the county's orbit had been unprecedented.

"I've never seen a relationship like this among county leaders," he said.

He added that the High Desert has shown law enforcement "incredible acts of support" in a time when anti-police sentiment has grown in the wake of police brutality accusations nationwide.

Speaking specifically of the Bluecut Fire, Dutton said his department expected to wrap up damage assessment late this week, revealing 840 parcels had been identified as damaged or lost. Separately, he said 80 new applicants have applied for disability benefits of which they were entitled, thanks in part to Lovingood's efforts.

The recently appointed Valdez said his department was replacing a 26-year-old paper-based financial system with a more modern web-based system.

Alejandre also emphasized technology, but within the schools system, particularly as it pertained to testing, suggesting No. 2 pencils were anymore an antiquated tool. He said the county's Cradle to Career Roadmap and a general focus on early education had upped early literacy in the county 6 to 7 percentage points to roughly 37 percent.

More parents were investing in their children's education as well.

"The doors are open," he said, "and we're seeing involvement from our parents in the county at levels we've never seen before."

Lovingood, meanwhile, reiterated certain themes broached during a speech at the Victorville Rotary Club on Tuesday. Over the last two days, the supervisor has sung the praises of career technical education, underscored the need to build a ready workforce in the desert and pledged to not slow down on "great strides" made in homelessness, which has seen an 1,100-plus reduction over 2 1/2 years.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/article/20160907/NEWS/160909817/0/SEARCH>

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## **Update: Firefighters Dispatched To Wildland Fire In Cedarpines Park – Fire Out**

Michael P. Neufeld, Rim of the World News  
September 7, 2016, 3:58 PM

UPDATE: Wednesday, September 7 – 4:03 p.m.

Cedarpines Park, CA – Firefighters dosed a small spot fire in Cedarpines Park and it is now out.

Additional response has been cancelled.

### **ORIGINAL STORY**

Cedarpines Park, CA – **San Bernardino County Fire** and CALFIRE crews have been dispatched to the 300 block of Little Oak Place in Cedarpines Park.

The fire was reported about 3:45 p.m.

Additional details shortly.

<http://rotwnews.com/2016/09/07/firefighters-dispatched-to-wildland-fire-in-cedarpines-park/>

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## **The Ins and Outs of Evacuation**

Mary-Justine Lanyon, Mountain News  
Posted: September 8, 2016, 6:00 AM

“We can’t get in when you’re trying to get out.”

That was one of the messages delivered at Tuesday night’s meeting of the Crest Forest Municipal Advisory Council by the federal, state and county agencies present.

Those agencies will deliver a more formal presentation at tonight’s (Sept. 8) meeting of the Lake Arrowhead Municipal Advisory Council. That meeting will take place at 6 p.m. at the Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa.

On the heels of the Pilot and Blue Cut Fires, the agencies were asked by Supervisor Janice Rutherford to update the communities on evacuation procedures and lessons learned from the two incidents.

“The Forest Service and all our cooperators appreciate the community’s support,” said Marc Stamer, the Mountaintop district ranger. “We know the inconveniences that occur.”

He noted that the agencies are in “control mode” on the Pilot Fire. “You can expect to see smoke in the Grass Valley watershed,” Stamer said. “There is still some heat in the interior of the fire.”

During the Pilot Fire, Stamer added, “we broke the record for the amount of retardant loaded—over 800,000 gallons.”

Battalion Chief Travis Throgmartin of Cal Fire stressed the importance of defensible space when there is a fire.

“Help us do our job to protect your home,” he said.

It was Kat Opliger, the Mountain Division chief for **San Bernardino County Fire**, who raised the issue of evacuation orders.

“When we went to evacuation orders,” she said, “many of you complied. I can’t tell you how much we appreciate that. It lends to the safety of the community and the firefighters.

“We can’t get in when you’re trying to get out. That’s why we give the order early. We don’t issue an evacuation order lightly. We understand the inconvenience.”

Captain Dale Gregory of the Twin Peaks sheriff’s station said he was surprised at how many people didn’t evacuate. “I guess they didn’t see fire or smoke,” he said.

What’s not understood is that “mandatory means you can’t come back in,” Capt. Gregory noted. He said he heard some very interesting stories about why people wanted to get back in to Deer Lodge Park after leaving during the Pilot Fire mandatory evacuation.

“Our job is to protect your property when you’re gone,” he said. “If you have people coming and going in a mandatory area, we may let someone in who doesn’t belong there.”

The decision to evacuate is made by a family, Capt. Gregory said. “The decision to let you back in is ours.” And if you didn’t evacuate, he added, when a deputy knocked on your door, you were asked for the names of the people in the house, your next of kin and your dentist’s name.

Part of the reason for an evacuation order, Capt. Gregory said, is to prevent gridlock. “Then public safety can’t get where they need to.”

While Capt. Gregory said CHP “took the brunt of the hits at the closures, telling people they couldn’t go back in,” CHP Lt. Tel Preszler said he thought the sheriff had the toughest job, checking on the homes.

He gave strict orders, Preszler said: “Once you leave, you do not go back under mandatory evacuation. If the fire comes over, the firefighters don’t have time to stop and assist you. They have to get to the fire. Evacuating makes it safer for everyone.”

As for when people can go back to their homes, Lt. Preszler said that “we want to make sure when you go home, you’re safe.” The orders to evacuate and to return home are done collectively and issued at the command post.

A voluntary evacuation, the lieutenant noted, “means there’s potential the fire could come toward you.”

Capt. Gregory added that if your area is under voluntary evacuation, “be prepared to not be able to get back in.”

Lt. Preszler suggested that every mountain resident should have his or her physical address listed on the vehicle registration as well as the P.O. box. “You will need that to get back in,” he said. “A bill won’t do it.”

[http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article\\_f44a32ec-754e-11e6-9071-b70b8e55e33f.html](http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_f44a32ec-754e-11e6-9071-b70b8e55e33f.html)