



# NEWS



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## Firefighters mopping up 8,110-acre Pilot fire in San Bernardino Mountains

Ali Tadayon, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: August 14, 2016, 9:18 AM



Firefighters work to save a half dozen homes along Highway 173 on Aug. 8 during the Pilot fire in Summit Valley near Silverwood Lake. Will Lester/Staff Photographer



**San Bernardino County Fire** Battalion Chief and Public Information Officer Marc Peebles talks about the Pilot fire Wednesday as it continues to burn in the San Bernardino Mountains above Summit Valley. Jennifer Cappuccio Maher/Staff Photographer

**SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS** >> After a week battling the 8,110-acre Pilot fire in the San Bernardino National Forest, firefighters entered the “mop-up stage” Sunday.

That means firefighters will continue their efforts within the fire area “to assure any remaining fire does not escape existing containment lines,” a San Bernardino National Forest Service news release stated Sunday morning. The fire was 96 percent contained at 8:33 a.m., as it was all day Saturday.

While firefighters work to prevent flare-ups, other firefighters will aim to keep the fire line steady. This process is expected to continue “for the next several days,” the news release stated.

Hot weather will be a challenge to firefighters working to mop up the Pilot fire Sunday. Temperatures are expected to be 95-100 degrees in that area and humidity values are expected to be about 15 percent in the afternoon.

Southwest winds are expected to reach 15 mph, with gusts up to 35 mph on ridgetops, the news release stated.

All evacuation orders remained lifted Sunday. However, Highway 173 between Grass Valley Road and Rock Camp remained closed, as well as Forest Service Roads 2N33, 2N17X, 2N36, and 2N37.

“Because firefighters continue to work in the area, please drive with caution and be alert to your surroundings,” the news release stated.

Part of the Pacific Crest Trail remained closed Sunday from Deep Creek Hot Springs to Silverwood State Park. The Pinnacles Trail - 3W16 - is closed from Highway 173.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160814/firefighters-mopping-up-8110-acre-pilot-fire-in-san-bernardino-mountains>

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## Cleaning up after the wildfire

*When flames die down, residents often spend time cleaning fire retardant off cars, homes and landscaping.*

**Doug Saunders, Press Enterprise**

Posted: August 15, 2016, 11:20 AM\



Photo: Stan Lim

Firefighters who battled the Pilot fire were busy at work last week in an added effort to help homeowners who left their homes behind under evacuation orders.

But they weren't dousing flames this time. Instead, they were helping residents whose homes were covered in a pink clay-like dust, known as Phos-chek, during the firefighting effort.

Phos-Chek is an aerial and ground applied chemical retardant for control and management of wildland fires, according to the website of its Rancho Cucamonga-based manufacturer, ICL Performance Products LP.

“Our community has come together to support us in many ways,” **San Bernardino County Fire** Captain Mike Arvizo said. “This small gesture is a way for us to give back to them.”

With a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency label as “practically non-toxic,” the red-chemical mixture is mostly harmless to humans and wild mammals, according to documents obtained from several agencies.

But it can cause quite a mess.

In some cases Phos-Chek, if not cleaned off quickly, could stain homes and vehicles.

“We’re trying to help homeowners clean the retardant from their homes to minimize any damage,” county fire Assistant Chief John Chamberlin said.

There are some concerns about the effects of retardant on trees and chaparral during the drought, which has made scarce the cleansing rains that can wash the chemicals away.

The Phos-Chek is dropped from fixed-wing aircraft with specially fitted holding tanks designed for the pink fire retardant, according to CalFire’s aviation website.

Some of the aircraft in the state’s aviation fleet can hold more than 10,000 gallons of the fire retardant.

“When we saw those planes dropping so much of that pink stuff and dark plumes of smoke rising we knew the fire was burning out of control and we prayed our home would be saved,” resident Tim McComber said. “Seeing the firefighters cleaning off homes made us respect them that much more. They and the sheriff’s department did an amazing job saving homes, property and all of our lives.”

<http://www.pe.com/articles/homes-810632-fire-retardant.html>

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## **Full containment expected Tuesday; southeastern perimeter is problem area**

Jose Quintero, Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: August 15, 2016, 5:16 PM

HESPERIA — Fire officials said Monday that full containment of the dwindling and stubborn Pilot Fire is expected on Tuesday. The blaze remained unchanged on Monday afternoon at 96 percent contained, despite fire officials anticipating full containment by 6 p.m. on Sunday.

There were not any fire crews working along Highway 173 on Monday afternoon. Employees from Frontier Communications and Southern California Edison were working on some properties along the highway in the Summit Valley.

The fire crews remained focused on containing the remainder of the blaze, which has been burning in the San Bernardino Mountains for over a week.

The San Bernardino National Forest Service announced that fire crews on Monday continued mopping up the fire, tending to hot spots and securing fire containment lines. The San Bernardino National Forest Service also said a Burned Area Emergency Response Team is responding to the San Bernardino Mountains to assess watershed damage.

The number of personnel battling the blaze has decreased by more than half, from more than 1,850 to 691, consisting of 18 crews working 26 engines, nine water tenders, seven bulldozers and seven helicopters.

The lone uncontained line is on the southeastern perimeter of the blaze, which has consumed 8,110 acres since beginning Aug. 7 near Silverwood Lake. It led to the evacuation of 5,300 homes, about 500 in Hesperia and the rest near Lake Arrowhead, Lake Gregory and Crestline.

All evacuation orders in Hesperia and Summit Valley were lifted on Thursday and the remaining evacuations of Deer Lodge Park near Lake Arrowhead remained in effect until Friday afternoon. Fire officials say no structures have been damaged or destroyed. One firefighter suffered minor injuries while battling the blaze.

Driving along Highway 173 used to relieve Dawna Bees' stress, especially after working a full shift at a hair salon in Apple Valley.

Bees said driving from Arrowhead Lake Road down Highway 173 and to her home was beautiful. Now, the charred and blackened hills and mountains along the road are a sad reminder of what almost happened to the homes of the small community of Summit Valley.

Luckily for Bees, she said the flatland area, where cattle roam freely in front of her home, was not impacted by the Pilot Fire. However, a short distance up the road on Highway 173, the blaze scorched the Summit Valley chaparral.

"My husband and I moved out here about two years ago and as soon I stepped on this porch, I knew this is where I wanted to live," Bees said as she looked out to the cattle roaming on the property across Highway 173. "It may not look like a lot but there are probably 300 to 400 cattle on that property. This is a million dollar view. This is the reason I moved here and thank God the fire didn't quite make its way here. We got really lucky. Our neighbors unfortunately weren't as lucky."

Bees said she feels lucky because for some "strange" reason the winds on Sunday and Monday were blowing northeast instead of the normal northwestern pattern through Summit Valley. Had it not been for the winds blowing in an opposite direction, Bees believes her property would have been caught in the Pilot Fire's havoc, as would have her neighbors' houses just up the road.

"I know our home wouldn't have been touched by the flames because the firefighters were amazing in protecting all the homes here," she said. "Sure all these properties are burned to a crisp, but the homes were not hit. That's because of the firefighters and they deserve all the recognition for that."

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/article/20160815/NEWS/160819841/0/SEARCH>

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## **Our View: Firefighters deserve our thanks**

Editorial Board, Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: August 15, 2016, 5:23 PM

Many of us take firefighters for granted. Unless your house is burning or you have a medical emergency that results in a 911 call, many of us never witness firsthand the great work these dedicated professionals do.

But when major wildfires, such as the Pilot Fire, encroach on civilization, we can gain a renewed sense of appreciation and gratitude for their hard work.

According to incident command figures, more than 1,850 firefighters and other personnel battled the Pilot Fire last week. They came from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, U.S. Forest Service and other jurisdictions around the Southland.

From hand crew members and pilots of water dropping helicopters, to those who flew air tankers dropping fire retardant and drove bulldozers cutting lines to try to stop the fire's spread, all played crucial roles in preventing this 8,110-acre blaze from destroying homes or claiming lives.

Many others played key roles behind the scenes, directing resources and ensuring firefighters had all the food, water and equipment they needed, as well as a place to lay their heads for a few hours rest.

It required a mammoth effort to protect Apple Valley, Hesperia and the mountain communities.

Yet protect it they did. That not one home nor life was lost to this fire seems miraculous, especially if you take a drive down Highway 173 in Summit Valley. The devastation is incredible, yet one home after another remains standing, many protected by pink fire retardant dropped by air tankers.

There are lines of that same pink fire retardant crossing the nearby mountains and surrounding homes on Arrowhead Lake Road in Hesperia. All bear witness to firefighters' determination not to allow the flames to take any lives or destroy anyone's property.

About 12 square miles is scorched, as the fire left only black in its wake. Yet for every acre of blackened soil there comes the realization that this fire could have been much, much worse.

If not for the efforts of these brave men and women on the fire lines, so willing to risk it all for people they didn't even know, who knows what might have happened in Summit Valley or Hesperia?

The lesson learned from the Pilot Fire is our firefighters are unbelievably good at what they do. Thank God for that, and thank God for them.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/opinion/20160815/our-view-firefighters-deserve-our-thanks>

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## Fire officials: Pilot Fire fully contained Tuesday morning

Jose Quintero, Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: August 16, 2016, 7:52 AM



A firefighter hoses down dirt and ash in Summit Valley last week as fire crews moved into a clean-up mode for that area of the Pilot Fire. David Pardo, Daily Press

**HESPERIA** — Fire officials announced the 8,110-acre Pilot Fire was fully contained Tuesday morning after burning for over a week in the San Bernardino Mountains and Summit Valley.

Cal Fire made the announcement on their Twitter account just after 7:15 a.m. However, the fire's incident report was not updated Tuesday morning, still showing 96 percent containment.

The blaze remained at 96 percent over the weekend and Monday as fire crews battled with containing the lone uncontained line burning in the southeastern perimeter of the blaze.

A message left with A fire official was not immediately returned Tuesday morning.

The Pilot Fire started near Silverwood Lake on Aug. 7, quickly resulting in over 5,000 evacuation orders for homes in the southeast Hesperia, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Gregory and Crestline areas.

All evacuation orders in Hesperia and Summit Valley were lifted on Thursday and the remaining evacuations of Deer Lodge Park near Lake Arrowhead remained in effect until Friday afternoon.

Fire officials on Monday reported no structures have been damaged or destroyed. One firefighter suffered minor injuries while battling the blaze.

This story will be updated throughout the day as more information becomes available.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20160816/fire-officials-pilot-fire-fully-contained-tuesday-morning>

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## Basin Fire – 45 Acres – Forward Rate Stopped (UPDATE 8)

Michael P. Neufeld, Rim Of The World News

Posted: August 15, 2016, 12:55 PM



Two Sheriff's Department helicopters joined the fight with fixed wing tankers and helped ground crews make quick work of the Basin Fire near Del Rosa Avenue in San Bernardino. (Sheriff's Department Photo)



The Basin Fire's forward rate of spread has been stopped by ground and aerial forces. The fire has consumed about 50 acres. (Photo by **San Bernardino County fire**)



San Bernardino County Fire is the lead agency on the Basin Fire with assistance from the U.S. Forest Service and CalFire. (Photo by U.J.S. Forest Service)

UPDATE 8: Monday, August 15: 4:58 p.m.

San Bernardino, CA – The Basin Fire in San Bernardino has been downsized to 45 acres.

The Basin Fire started in the City of San Bernardino and moved into the San Bernardino National Forest.

The Incident Commander has now ordered 300 dinners.

UPDATE 7: Monday, August 15: 4:41 p.m.



San Bernardino, CA – The forward rate of spread has been stopped at 50 acres, according to the Basin Fire Incident Commander.

UPDATE 6: Monday, August 15: 4:31 p.m.

San Bernardino, CA – Scanner reports indicate several air tankers are on their way to assist ground forces with the Basin Fire in San Bernardino. The tankers are expected to arrive shortly.

UPDATE 5: Monday, August 15: 4:21 p.m.

San Bernardino, CA – San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan is reporting that the Basin Fire is moving away from structures at this point (toward the mountain).

Burguan indicates that no homes are in immediate danger.

UPDATE 4: Monday, August 15 – 4:17 p.m.

San Bernardino, CA – San Bernardino’s Emergency Operations Center has been activated.

No evacuations have been ordered near the Basin Fire.

UPDATE 3: Monday, August 15 – 4:10 p.m.

Crestline, CA – Some units assigned to the Pilot Fire have been dispatched to the Basin Fire in San Bernardino.

Motorists in the Crestline area and on Highway 18 should watch for responding fire units and yield as they make their way down the hill.

UPDATE 2: Monday, August 15 – 4:04 p.m.

San Bernardino, CA – Scanner transmissions from firefighters battling the Basin Fire indicate that they can probably pick up the fire if they get some fixed wing tankers over the fire.

The San Bernardino Police Department is reporting the area of the Basin Fire is closed to residents only at this point.

UPDATE: Monday, August 15 – 4:02 p.m.

San Bernardino, CA – Firefighters battling the Basin Fire in San Bernardino have requested four additional tankers to respond to the fire near Del Rosa.

The fire is now reported at 30 acres near Quail Canyon Road.

ORIGINAL STORY

San Bernardino, CA – A second alarm has been sounded for the Basin Fire in the Del Rosa area of San Bernardino. Smoke from the fire is visible from both Highway 18 and Highway 330.

The location in the wash is just north of Del Rosa and Foothill and was reported at about 3:45 p.m.

Early reports indicate the fire is 4-5 acres with a rapid rate of spread.

<http://rotnnews.com/2016/08/15/breaking-news-basin-fire-reported-in-del-rosa-area/>

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## **Brush Fire Near San Bernardino Contained After Charring 40 Acres**

**Press Enterprise**

Posted: August 16, 2016

Fire crews on the ground and in the air made quick work of fire of more than 40 acres in the foothills above San Bernardino.

The fire broke out shortly before 4 p.m. in a canyon deep in the foothills north of Foothill Drive and east of Del Rosa Avenue.

Multiple agencies responded after the blaze started within city limits and began to move away from homes and into the San Bernardino National Forest.

The blaze, dubbed the Basin fire, quickly spread, **San Bernardino County fire** officials said via Twitter. By 4:40 p.m., the U.S. Forest Service reported that firefighters had halted the forward edge of the blaze. Forest Service personnel had 10 percent containment by 6:30 p.m.

Less than an hour after the fire was reported, smoke plumes dissipated as aircraft swarmed the area dropping water and chemical retardant Phos-Chek.

“I watched this start, and memories of the Old fire quickly turned to a nightmare relived,” longtime resident Marcia Reyes said. “But they jumped on this fast and kept it small. It’s so dry up there you never know what can happen.”

The area is closed to all except residents, according to San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan. No evacuations have been ordered.

“Roads are closed in the area to give fire equipment room to move. Please stay out of the area,” Burguan said via Twitter.

The cause of the fire is not known.

[\(Print Edition Only\)](#)

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## 50 Acres Burn in the Foothills by Del Rosa

Paul Prado, Highland News

Posted: August 16, 2016, 7:30 AM



A fixed wing tanker plane heads to the fire with a load of fire retardant. Photo by Paul Prado Photography

At approximately 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 15, a fire started scorching the foothills above the Del Rosa Complex Fire Training facility.

At least seven water dropping helicopters, a fixed wing fire retardant dropping aircraft, and two spotter planes were in the air maneuvering to locate and douse the flames that seemed to be spreading northward away from homes and neighborhoods.

“It’s a 50-acre active burn”, said San Bernardino Police Lieutenant Mike Madden. “No structures have been affected so far, and the cause of the fire is suspicious in nature.”

An impromptu command post was made in the parking lot of the Del Rosa Complex. The Forestry Service, Cal Fire, the San Bernardino Sheriff’s Department were all participating with fire equipment and aircraft to extinguish the fast moving flames.

The smoke from the Basin Fire, as it was referred to by fire fighters, was visible from miles away.

[http://www.highlandnews.net/news/breaking\\_news/acres-burn-in-the-foothills-by-del-rosa/article\\_ef2308d6-63bd-11e6-a31a-bf9f2f36039f.html](http://www.highlandnews.net/news/breaking_news/acres-burn-in-the-foothills-by-del-rosa/article_ef2308d6-63bd-11e6-a31a-bf9f2f36039f.html)

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## **Vehicle fire on northbound I-15 ignites vegetation along right-hand shoulder near top of Cajon Pass**

*Rock Fire at half an acre but forward spread halted, according to officials*

**Victor Valley Daily Press**

Posted: August 15, 2016, 12:41 PM

A vehicle fire ignited the vegetation along the right-hand shoulder of northbound Interstate 15 near the top of the Cajon Pass on Monday.

Per scanner traffic, a white van was reported to be on fire and in the vegetation on the right-hand shoulder of I-15 at approximately 12:10 p.m., south of Oak Hill Road.

**San Bernardino County Fire Department**, Cal Fire and Forest Service personnel responded to the scene and the San Bernardino National Forest Twitter account said the fire, which is being called the Rock Fire, was contained at a half an acre along the shoulder and the forward spread had been halted.

The fire caused the two right lanes of northbound I-15 to be closed and traffic was reported to be backed up well past the 138 as of 2:30 p.m.

This story is still developing and will be updated as more details become available.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20160815/vehicle-fire-on-northbound-i-15-ignites-vegetation-along-right-hand-shoulder-near-top-of-cajon-pass>

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## **Two injured, taken to UMC after vehicle fire on Interstate 15 near Primm**

**Marvin Clemons, Nbc3 Las Vegas**

Posted: August 15, 2016

Two people were injured Monday, August 15, 2016, after a vehicle fire on Interstate 15 near Primm, Nev. (Robert Varela | News3LV)

PRIMM, Nev. (KSNV News3LV) — Two people were injured early Monday in a car fire on Interstate 15 in California.

The fire occurred on northbound I-15 about 12:30 a.m., according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

One person was flown by helicopter and another was taken by ground ambulance. Both were taken to UMC. There is no information on the extent of their injuries.

The fire engine that responded from Baker to the site of the fire sustained a flat tire and has been at the fire scene all night, said a San Bernardino County Fire Department staffer.

Normal traffic on I-15 has resumed, according to traffic websites.

<http://news3lv.com/news/local/two-injured-taken-to-umc-after-vehicle-fire-on-interstate-15-near-primm>