



# NEWS



## News Headlines 08/10/2016

- Fast-Moving Brush Fire Burns in San Bernardino, CA, Mountains
- Pilot fire in San Bernardino County spreads to nearly 6,300 acres, triggering evacuations
- Pilot Fire Near Silverwood Lake Grows To 6,298 Acres; 6 Percent Contained
- UPDATE: Blaze grows to 7,700 acres; still 6 percent contained
- UPDATE: Authorities lift mandatory evacuation orders for Hesperia residents
- Victor Valley schools remain closed as smoke fills air
- Overnight progress brings Pilot fire containment to 64 percent, 7,861 acres burned
- PILOT FIRE UPDATE: Fire 64% contained as crews make 'significant' progress overnight
- 7,736-acre Pilot fire creeps northward
- Behind the shield

## **Fast-Moving Brush Fire Burns in San Bernardino, CA, Mountains**

Shelby Grad and Matt Hamilton, Firehouse

Posted: August 8, 2016, 1:38 PM

Aug. 08--A fast-moving brush fire burned more than 1,500 acres Sunday near Silverwood Lake in San Bernardino County, triggering evacuations and road closures, authorities said.

The Pilot fire was first reported about 12 p.m. and quickly spread amid dry brush and timber, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

About 400 firefighters were battling the blaze by air and on the ground, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** and U.S. Forest Service. Eight air tankers were deployed to help control the flames, fire officials said.

There is no containment at this time. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

The fire could be seen in a wide area of the mountains and surrounding communities, and evacuations were ordered for those in the Summit Valley area east of Cedar Springs Dam, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

The American Red Cross opened an evacuation center at Rancho Middle School in Hesperia. Pet owners can bring animals to the San Bernardino County Fairground, located in the 14800 block of 7th Street in Victorville.

A portion of Highway 138 was closed, and officials urged motorists to avoid the area. Highway 173 was also closed between Highway 138 and Arrowhead Lake Road.

The fire prompted the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District to issue a smoke advisory for Victor Valley and nearby communities, warning those with lung or heart disease as well as older adults and children to limit the amount of time spent outside.

Residents in the Central San Bernardino Mountains were also under a smoke advisory issued by the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

### UPDATES:

11 p.m.: This article was updated with more information about fire acreage and evacuations.

4:35 p.m.: This article was updated with details on the growth of the fire.

3:30 p.m.: This article was updated with additional details.

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12241845/fast-moving-brush-fire-burns-in-san-bernardino-ca-mountains-in-silverwood-lake>

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## Pilot fire in San Bernardino County spreads to nearly 6,300 acres, triggering evacuations

Matt Hamilton and Brittny Mejia, LA Times

Posted: August 8, 2016, 8:25 PM



A fast-moving wildfire in the mountains of San Bernardino County grew Monday to nearly 6,300 acres, prompting the evacuation of thousands of residents, authorities said.

About 375 homes were under a mandatory evacuation order in the Summit Valley area and Hesperia, according to the U.S. Forest Service and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

About 5,000 homes were under a voluntary evacuation advisory in Hesperia and nearby communities, Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Cindy Bachman said.

After it was first reported about noon Sunday, the Pilot fire spread quickly in dry brush and timber. As of Monday night, the blaze was only 6% contained, said Justin Taylor of the U.S. Forest Service.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Firefighters have worked in the air and on the ground to build fire lines and snuff out the flames, said U.S. Forest Service spokesman Bob Poole.

"Because the vegetation is so incredibly dry, all it takes is a little spark and it's just been chewing through it," Poole said. "That's been our difficulty."

There has been no structural damage to homes in the rugged rural area, which has several horse ranches.

Because the vegetation is so incredibly dry, all it takes is a little spark and it's just been chewing through it.— Bob Poole, U.S. Forest Service spokesman.

More than 840 firefighters have been assigned to battle the blaze, aided by five bulldozers and a fleet of helicopters and air tankers.

"Because of the aggressive attack by our firefighters, we were able to protect homes," Poole said. "These guys — they're highly trained, they're highly motivated and they're doing an incredible job in difficult conditions."

The mandatory evacuation order on Highway 173 extended from Highway 138 to Arrowhead Lake Road and from Hesperia Lake Place to Highway 173, fire officials said. In Hesperia, the evacuation order covers homes from Santa Fe Avenue to Lake Arrowhead Road as well as homes south of Rancho Road, Bachman said.

The voluntary evacuation order included those north of Deep Creek Spillway, south of Rock Springs Road, east of the Mojave River and west of Kiowa Road, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

The American Red Cross has opened a shelter at Oak Hills High School. Pet owners can bring animals to the San Bernardino County Devore Animal Shelter.

Highway 173 is closed between State Route 138 and Arrowhead Lake Road.

The fire prompted a smoke advisory for Victor Valley and nearby communities, with the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District warning those with lung and heart disease as well as older adults and children to limit the amount of time spent outside.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District also issued a smoke advisory for residents in the central San Bernardino Mountains.

Meanwhile, to the north, the Soberanes fire in Monterey County has scorched 60,900 acres and is 50% contained. The blaze, which has burned for more than two weeks, has killed one person, injured three others and destroyed 57 homes and 11 outbuildings.

The victim, Robert Reagan III, was a bulldozer operator working to control the fire. At some point, he suffered fatal injuries, authorities said.

Other blazes in the state include the Cold fire, which has burned 5,731 acres at the southern tip of Lake Berryessa in Northern California and is 70% contained, and the Goose fire in Fresno County, which has burned 2,241 acres and is 96% contained.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-pilot-fire-20160808-snap-story.html>

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## **Pilot Fire Near Silverwood Lake Grows To 6,298 Acres; 6 Percent Contained**

Christina Salvo , Leticia Juarez and Leanne Suter, ABC7 News

Posted: August 9, 2016, 12:13AM

SILVERWOOD LAKE, Calif. (KABC) –

The Pilot Fire grew to 6,298 acres by Monday evening, with just 6 percent containment as the fast-moving blaze triggered evacuations and school closings in communities around the San Bernardino National Forest.

Dozens of families were hoping they have a home to come back to as firefighters continued to battle the monster blaze in the forest north of Crestline near Silverwood Lake.

The wildfire first erupted near Pilot Rock Conservation Camp at just 30 acres on Sunday.

More than 4,700 homes were impacted by voluntary and mandatory evacuation orders, which continued to expand throughout the day Monday.

Among areas under mandatory evacuation orders were: Arrowhead Lake Road, south of Hesperia Lakes to Highway 173; the Deer Park Lodge neighborhood of Lake Arrowhead; the Summit Valley area east of Cedar Springs Dam.

Voluntary evacuations were also in place for north Lake Arrowhead, from Brentwood east to Highway 173 - all neighborhoods north of the lake, according to the sheriff's department. Additional voluntary evacuations included Golf Course Road east to North Bay Road - everything north of Peninsula to Highway 173.

The latest evacuation information is available from the Twitter feeds of the San Bernardino County Sheriff and the San Bernardino National Forest.

The American Red Cross moved its evacuation center from Rancho Middle School to Oak Hills High School, located at 7625 Cataba Rd.

Another evacuation center was set up at Rim of the World High School, 27400 CA-18, Twin Peaks.

The Apple Valley Unified School District said it will be closed Tuesday because of poor air quality caused by the fire. The Hesperia Unified School District will also be closed.

**San Bernardino County fire** officials said the Pilot Fire was burning north, as 843 personnel continued the fire fight.

Fire officials from the U.S. National Forest Service said conditions were ripe for fire due to the drought.

"The vegetation is incredibly dry. All it takes is just one spark for it to move rapidly through, and that's quite frankly what happened yesterday....," said Bob Poole of the U.S. National Forest Service.

Although the brush fire was not in a densely populated area, about three dozen evacuations were ordered. Smoke advisories issued by health officials for the Mojave Desert area were also still in effect.

Those with small and large animals can take them to Devore Animal Shelter, located at 19777 Shelter Way in San Bernardino.

Highway 173 was closed between State Route-138 and Arrowhead Lake Road.

Those with questions regarding the Pilot Fire were urged to call the San Bernardino Fire Information Center at (909)383-5688.

No homes were burned in the fire as of Monday afternoon and no injuries were reported. Homes were protected by the use of fire retardant dropped from the air and gel applied by firefighters on the ground.

It was not clear what sparked the blaze.

<http://abc7.com/news/pilot-fire-near-silverwood-lake-grows-to-6298-acres;-6-percent-contained/1461107/>

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## **UPDATE: Blaze grows to 7,700 acres; still 6 percent contained**

*Mandatory evacuation orders relaxed in southeast Hesperia; Schools remain closed Wednesday*

**Victor Valley Daily Press**

Posted: August 9, 2016, 6:54 AM



A San Bernardino County firefighter is shrouded in dust and smoke as a hand crew and bulldozer clear smoldering debris from the Pilot Fire on Tuesday in Summit Valley. James Quigg, Daily Press

**HESPERIA** — The Pilot Fire grew to more than 7,700 acres Tuesday, with firefighters still managing only 6 percent containment as homes from Lake Arrowhead to Hesperia remain threatened.

More than 5,300 homes remain under mandatory or voluntary evacuation orders, the bulk of those in the mountain communities, authorities said.

“The dominant direction of the blaze is to north-northeast,” **San Bernardino County Fire** spokesman Eric Sherwin said. “However, we did experience growth of the fire on all sides.”

The San Bernardino Sheriff's Department relaxed evacuation orders in Hesperia on Tuesday, changing from mandatory to voluntary the orders for residents who live east of Santa Fe Avenue and south of Rancho Road. Many residents in that sizable area disregarded evacuation notices they received Monday anyway.

No homes have been lost, authorities said, and no injuries or deaths have been reported. The cause of the blaze remains under investigation.

The Apple Valley, Hesperia and Oro Grande school districts decided late Tuesday to close all their schools again on Wednesday because of poor air quality caused by smoke from the blaze, officials said. All three districts had closed their campuses on Tuesday, but they held out hope they could reopen on Wednesday. That hope disappeared as smoky conditions persisted.

The Pilot Fire proved to be perhaps even more stubborn on Tuesday than it had been on Sunday and Monday. More than 840 firefighters continue to battle the blaze, which grew to more than 12 square miles. The fire was approaching Lake Arrowhead but continued to cause some concern in the Summit Valley area of southeast Hesperia, especially as the winds picked up.

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors declared a local emergency in response to the fire. The County took to Twitter to announce the emergency. The Department of Homeland Security's Federal

Emergency Management Agency announced that a fire management grant was approved on Monday to support combating the fire.

FEMA officials said the grant can cover personnel and staffing, equipment and supplies, meals, health and safety items, pre-positioning resources and emergency work. The agency said the grants help prevent a wildfire from becoming a "major disaster."

Fire officials said the blaze picked up at 8 a.m. Tuesday after calming down overnight due to low winds and temperatures that dipped into the low 60s. Sherwin said fire crews expected strong winds to kick in by noon and they did.

"Today we will have aircraft back on the fire working in conjunction with ground assets," he said. "We currently have 934 personnel assigned to the incident. We will have six air wing tankers, two very large air tankers and seven helicopters supporting ground ops."

Total personnel grew throughout the day to 1,475, according to the San Bernardino National Forest incident website.

Residents awoke Tuesday morning to much clearer skies, as smoke appeared greatly reduced from the previous two days. But those clear skies didn't last long.

Meanwhile, Hesperia neighborhoods in the evacuation zone were quiet on Tuesday morning, but it was easy to see by the number of cars in driveways that many residents had elected to disregard mandatory evacuation orders.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160809/NEWS/160809751/0/SEARCH>

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## **UPDATE: Authorities lift mandatory evacuation orders for Hesperia residents**

*Pilot Fire remains at 6,963 acres, 6 percent contained*

**Desert Dispatch**

Posted: Aug. 9, 2016, 1:15 PM



David Pardo, Daily Press

**HESPERIA** — The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department lifted the mandatory evacuation orders for Hesperia residents south of Ranchero Road and east of Summit Valley Road Tuesday afternoon, as fire officials said the Pilot Fire figures remained at 6,963 acres and 6 percent contained.

The evacuation order for 500 southeast Hesperia homes was called Monday afternoon, but was downgraded to voluntary a little after noon on Tuesday.

The County Board of Supervisors declared a local emergency on Tuesday in response to the Pilot Fire. The County took to Twitter to announce the emergency late Tuesday morning.

Fire officials said at 8 a.m. they were already seeing the blaze pick up after calming down overnight due to low winds and temperatures that dipped into the low 60s.

**San Bernardino County Fire** spokesman Eric Sherwin said fire crews are expecting another morning of low humidity and strong winds to pick up by noon.

Sherwin admitted a math mistake earlier when telling the Daily Press that the blaze had grown to 7,522 acres following a staff briefing a little after 6:30 a.m.

Sherwin said the correct figures for the blaze Tuesday morning are 6,963 acres and 6 percent containment.

“Today we will have aircraft back on the fire working in conjunction with ground assets,” Sherwin said. “We currently have 934 personnel assigned to the incident. We will have six air wing tankers, two very large air tankers and seven helicopters supporting ground ops.

Residents awoke Tuesday morning to a much clearer sky, as smoke from the Pilot Fire appeared greatly reduced from the previous two days.

The blaze grew from 4,500 acres to nearly 6,300 acres on Monday, causing authorities to evacuate 500 homes in southeast Hesperia, along with other evacuations, including a mandatory evacuations in Lake Arrowhead also.

Monday's total of mandatory and voluntary evacuations due to the fire was 4,700. An update on any additional evacuations was not available Tuesday morning.

"The dominant direction of the blaze is to north-northeast," Sherwin said. "However, we did experience growth of the fire on all sides."

Neighborhoods in the evacuation zone east of Santa Fe Avenue and south of Rancho Road were quiet, but it was easy to see by the number of cars in driveways that many residents had elected to disregard the mandatory evacuation order that authorities implemented Monday afternoon.

Although Damon Road and Paisley Avenue south of Hesperia had been closed with police tape strung across lanes, many other streets south of Rancho were open and residents were leaving for work.

Hesperia and Apple Valley schools are closed today, and a smoke advisory remains in effect for the entire Victor Valley.

At 6:50 a.m. there was no update to the incident command report on the massive fire, which began moving swiftly toward Lake Arrowhead, Crestline and Hesperia on Monday afternoon.

More than 840 personnel and 91 engines are battling the blaze, along with eight helicopters, eight air tankers and 14 fire crews.

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

<http://www.desertdispatch.com/news/20160809/update-authorities-lift-mandatory-evacuation-orders-for-hesperia-residents>

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## **Victor Valley schools remain closed as smoke fills air**

*Apple Valley, Hesperia, Oro Grande districts suspend classes for a second day*

**Rene Ray De La Cruz, Victor Valley Daily Press**

Posted: August 9, 2016, 7:21 PM

APPLE VALLEY — As smoke and ash from the Pilot Fire continues to move through the Victor Valley, three school districts have decided not to reopen schools Wednesday and one private institution chose to postpone its opening day.

Spokeswoman Kristin Hernandez with the Apple Valley Unified School District told the Daily Press the district will keep all schools, programs and offices closed on Wednesday due to poor air quality.

"The weather forecast is calling for reduced wind on Thursday and Friday," an AVUSD news release said. "We plan to resume school on Thursday, Aug. 11 with an early release schedule."

Schools in the Hesperia Unified School District and all three campuses of Riverside Preparatory in the Oro Grande School also will remain closed on Wednesday. This will be the second consecutive day that the districts have suspended operations. School districts in Adelanto and Victorville have not begun classes yet.

Apple Valley Christian School, which traditionally follows the AVUSD's lead for special school closures, announced that Wednesday's first day of school will have to wait.

AVCS Superintendent John Richart said his teachers have completed their in-service training days and the campus “is looking spiffy, but God had something different for us.”

AVUSD district officials said they’ve obtained face masks for each student for both Thursday and Friday.

The decision to close the schools came late Tuesday evening after district officials assessed the situation. Hernandez said the AVUSD has worked with local fire officials, monitoring air quality on [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov) and driving through the entire district to assess potential impact.

Students and parents are urged to check school district websites and Facebook pages for updates.

The [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov) site reported that Tuesday’s air quality in Hesperia was deemed “unhealthy for sensitive groups” and the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District’s smoke advisory issued Sunday for the Victor Valley and surrounding communities had not been lifted.

Battalion Chief and **San Bernardino County Fire** spokesman Marc Peebles tweeted late Tuesday that “increased fire activity in the interior of the fire is causing heavy drift smoke into Apple Valley.”

Poor air quality prompted the Hesperia Youth Football League to cancel practice Tuesday evening, according to the Hesperia Recreation and Park District.

Local hospitals continue to report no increase in patients due to the fire or smoke, but continue to stay on high alert should things change. They also said any individual experiencing symptoms should contact their healthcare provider or seek medical attention at the nearest hospital.

The air quality management district told residents to use common sense to protect their health, remarking that everyone — especially people with heart or lung disease, older adults and children — should limit time spent outdoors and avoid outdoor exercise when smoke is in the area.

Visit [www.mdaqmd.ca.gov](http://www.mdaqmd.ca.gov) for more information on air quality.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/article/20160809/NEWS/160809715/0/SEARCH>

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## Overnight progress brings Pilot fire containment to 64 percent, 7,861 acres burned

Anne Millerbernd, The Press-Enterprise and Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: August 10, 2016, 7:27 AM



An airtanker drops fire retardant on the Pilot fire burning near Deer Lodge Park, Calif. on Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2016. The brush fire, which ignited Sunday, spread to 6,963 acres with six-percent containment. (Photo by Rachel Luna/The Sun, SCNG)

Firefighters battling the Pilot fire in the San Bernardino Mountains made significant progress containing the flames overnight.

By Wednesday morning, firefighters say they had the 7,861-acre fire at 64 percent containment - a massive jump from 6 percent on Tuesday.

The fire grew about 125 acres overnight, said **San Bernardino County Fire** spokesman Eric Sherwin.

More than 1,700 firefighters were in the mountains Wednesday battling the blaze.

Mandatory evacuations were still in effect for the Deer Lodge Park community and a handful of neighboring streets. Highway 173 between Highway 138 and Arrowhead Lake Road were evacuated, according to a fire incident report.

All other evacuations were voluntary and included areas to the north and northwest of the fire.

County officials declared a local emergency Tuesday and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency has authorized the use of federal funds to help battle the fire.

Oro Grande, Hesperia and Apple Valley school districts have closed schools for Wednesday because of the fire, according to a fire incident report.

The fire did not appear to threaten homes in the Summit Valley just after daybreak Wednesday, but crews were still stationed along Highway 173.

Firefighting efforts are expected to focus on further containing the flames throughout Wednesday, Sherwin said.

A total of 98 engines, 14 water tenders, 41 crews, 14 dozers, one helicopter were working on the fire late Tuesday.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160810/overnight-progress-brings-pilot-fire-containment-to-64-percent-7861-acres-burned>

## PILOT FIRE UPDATE: Fire 64% contained as crews make 'significant' progress overnight

Jose Quintero, Desert Dispatch  
Posted: August 10, 2016, 8:52 AM



Mike Callaway of the San Bernardino County Fire Department attacks burning brush along Highway 173 in Hesperia on Monday. James Quigg, Daily Press

**HESPERIA — San Bernardino County Fire Department** officials announced this morning that the Pilot Fire is now 64 percent contained thanks to “significant” overnight progress on containment lines.

The department said the blaze has consumed 7,861 acres, or roughly 11 square miles in the San Bernardino Mountains and Summit Valley.

“These guys and girls really busted their butts overnight and really built some containment lines,” Sherwin said a little after 8 a.m.

Sherwin had told the Daily Press at 7:30 a.m., prior to the release of the the updated figures, that he expected to see a significant jump in containment.

“Looking at the ops map, we knew that we made good progress last night with the decrease in fire activity, which allowed our crews to get in there and really start building this containment line,” he said. “But 64 percent containment just shows how eager the firefighters were to get in there as soon as the fire activity allowed them to make the progress that we have been anticipating for the last four days.”

Sherwin said there are now 1,746 firefighters battling the Pilot Fire. Today the firefighters will focus on reinforcing and extending containment lines, especially near the Deer Lodge Park area near Lake Arrowhead, which is under mandatory evacuation orders.

However, Sherwin said residents should expect to see active burning continuing on the interior of the fire, which will produce significant amounts of smoke across the Victor Valley.

“We will have a return of the wind today. We do expect that to push smoke back up over the High Desert,” he said. “Whether it lays down on the Hesperia side or Apple Valley side remains to be seen. But we’ll see that start up in the late morning and early afternoon hours. Fire activity in southeastern Hesperia has decreased significantly. We made good progress with the line construction out there in the Summit Valley and we will be working in that area as well.”

Residents of the mesa awoke to cool temperatures Wednesday, but a cloud of smoke hung over the nearby mountains and Summit Valley. By 6:30 a.m., however, a brisk wind that was unusual for Hesperia mornings had pushed the smell of the Pilot Fire and some of that smoke all the way to Main Street.

More than 4,700 homes are under either voluntary or mandatory evacuation orders in the mountain communities. In Hesperia, about 500 homes east of Santa Fe and south of Rancho Road remain under voluntary evacuation notice.

Schools in Hesperia, Apple Valley and Oro Grande will be closed for a second straight day because of concern over the poor air quality in the Victor Valley.

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District issued an air quality warning because of smoke on Sunday and it remains in effect.

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

<http://www.desertdispatch.com/news/20160810/pilot-fire-update-fire-64-contained-as-crews-make-significant-progress-overnight>

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## 7,736-acre Pilot fire creeps northward

*Containment Remains At 6 Percent, But Some Residents Allowed To Go Home.*

Ali Tadayon, Anne Millerbernd and Beatriz Valenzuela, The Press Enterprise

Posted: August 10, 2016



San Bernardino County firefighter/paramedic Bryson Rahier puts out hot spots battling the Pilot fire along the 173 on Tuesday. Stan Lim, Staff Photographer



An air tanker drops retardant on the Pilot fire Tuesday. The fire, which ignited Sunday, was 6 percent contained Tuesday night.

An air tanker drops retardant on the Pilot fire Tuesday. The fire, which ignited Sunday, was 6 percent contained Tuesday night. Rachel Luna, Staff Photographer



Firefighters work together putting out hot spots along the 173 while battling the Pilot fire in Hesperia on Tuesday. Stan Lim, Staff Photographer



San Bernardino County firefighter/paramedic Bryson Rahier looks for hot spots Tuesday. Stan Lim, Staff Photographer

Acreage: 7,736 Containment: 6 percent School closures: Hesperia Unified and Apple Valley Unified school districts; Riverside Prep Elementary School in the Oro Grande School District For the latest: [inciweb.nwcg.gov](http://inciweb.nwcg.gov)

A combination of firefighters' efforts holding the northwest containment line on the 7,736-acre Pilot fire and decreased activity in that area allowed some residents to return to their homes Tuesday.

The area on the east edge of Hesperia – east of Santa Fe Avenue, south of Ranchero Road to Arrowhead Lake Road and north of the spillway areas east of the Mojave River and south of Rock Springs Road to Kiowa Road – was changed from a mandatory evacuation area to a voluntary evacuation area Tuesday morning, said **San Bernardino County Fire** spokesman Eric Sherwin in a phone interview Tuesday afternoon.

Aimee Chavez, who works at Mile High Cafe & Bar on Summit Valley Road in Hesperia, spoke Tuesday about how authorities placed the area under mandatory evacuation but then later switched it to voluntary.

'We Packed Up And Left'

“They came by yesterday, so we packed up and left,” Chavez said. “It didn’t seem close, but you do what you have to.”

The fire containment line – which remains at 6 percent – held through Tuesday’s operations as well, Sherwin said.

Firefighters hoped to increase the containment line overnight.

Despite the fire weakening on the northwest side, it continues to move north, Sherwin said.

Active burning on the fire’s interior caused a significant amount of smoke to blow into Apple Valley.

Schools in the Hesperia Unified and Apple Valley Unified school districts as well as Riverside Prep Elementary School in the Oro Grande School District will be closed today, as they were Tuesday, due to poor air quality, officials said.

David Hawks, a maintenance worker at Hesperia airport who praised emergency personnel, was told he had to evacuate, but he didn’t.

“They’re all doing a good job, including that gal” who ordered the evacuation, Hawks said. “I stayed in case they needed resources, like our water.”

Strong winds that aided the fire’s growth Monday and Tuesday began to die down about 6:40 p.m. Tuesday, Sherwin said.

“The wind isn’t as dominant as it was the last two days,” Sherwin said. “It’s still exerting on the fire. The evidence is the fact the smoke has a significant impact on Apple Valley.”

At some point during the day Tuesday, the fire crossed the 173 near Las Flores Ranch, U.S. Forest Service officials said in a news release. Firefighters using bulldozers at 8 p.m. continued to dig a line from Pilot Rock to the Lake Arrowhead Community Services District Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Deer Lodge Park community remained under mandatory evacuation Tuesday night. The mandatory evacuation area also included Aleutian Drive, Klondike Drive, Evergreen Lane and Yukon Drive. The 173 north between the 138 and Arrowhead Lake Road remained closed.

## Federal Funds

### Authorized

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency has authorized the use of federal funds to battle the Pilot fire.

California authorities submitted a request for a Fire Management Assistance Grant for the Pilot fire on Monday, according to a statement from the federal agency.

“At the time of the request, the fire was threatening 750 homes in and around the communities” of Hesperia, Deer Lodge Park and Summit Valley, the statement read.

Federal authorities determined the fire had the potential to cause such destruction that it would constitute a major disaster, the statement said. The request was approved Monday.

The grant program will cover 75 percent of the cost to fight single or cumulative fires, said Tracey Martinez, spokeswoman for county fire. The state pays the remaining 25 percent for actual costs, according to the FEMA website.

Despite the intense growth and limited containment, no one has been injured and no structures have been lost, said San Bernardino County Fire Battalion Chief Marc Peebles. The number of firefighters at the blaze grew from 843 Monday night to 1,475 Tuesday night, Peebles said.

#### Evacuation Centers

#### Prepared

A Red Cross evacuation center was set up at Rim of the World High School. Nine people used the center's services, American Red Cross volunteer Maryann Roberts said Tuesday.

"It doesn't matter if we have two or 200 people, we're prepared to provide service for them," said Roberts, who has been a volunteer with the organization for a decade.

Four Red Cross volunteers worked inside the emergency shelter in an empty gymnasium at Oak Hills High School.

Dr. Romulo Tabo, 76, a semi-retired physician from Loma Linda, showed up to the emergency center see if he could help.

So did an off-duty registered nurse at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, the county's Colton-based hospital, but he declined to give his name.

But there were no Pilot fire refugees at the Oak Hills shelter Tuesday afternoon.

"Two people came in yesterday," said Brenda Bridges, a Red Cross shelter associate. They stayed a few hours and left.

A family of eight, whose home was in a mandatory evacuation area, stopped by the shelter earlier Tuesday and was expected to spend the night, Bridges said.

#### Area Hasn't Seen Fire

#### In 50 To 75 Years

The Deer Lodge Park area hasn't burned since the Pinnacles fire in 2006.

"It was just nerve-racking since we've only been up there since September 2012, so this was our first fire," said Megann Mills, who left her Deer Lodge Park home Monday afternoon.

“I saw the voluntary evac tweet from (the Forest Service) that mentioned our particular street so we quickly packed up two cars with important docs, some clothes, our five pets and evacuated at 3:45 p.m. yesterday. I didn’t want to wait until it was mandatory.”

The Silverwood Lake area, where the Pilot fire ignited Sunday afternoon, has seen even less fire activity through the years, U.S. Forest Service spokesman John Miller said.

“The area where the fire started – that doesn’t have a strong burn history,” he said.

That part of the mountains hasn’t been aflame in 50 to 75 years, he said. That means the thick buildup of drought-dried vegetation there will burn hotter and spread flames faster.

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

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## **Behind the shield**

**Victor Valley Daily Press**

Posted: August 10, 2016



Children gather with Smokey the Bear for a photo during the National Night Out event at Super Target on Aug. 2. Jose Huerta/Hesperia Star



People walk around the Super Target parking lot during Hesperia's National Night Out event on Aug. 2. Jose Huerta, Hesperia Star

In the wake of recent shootings targeting law enforcement across the country, Hesperia residents showed up in droves to Super Target to help change the narrative of police-community relationships at Hesperia's National Night Out event.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, California Highway Patrol, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and American Red Cross all took part in the annual event, created to help break barriers between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve.

Demonstrations and informational booths on crime prevention and Neighborhood Watch programs, Citizens on Patrol and Explorer programs were provided to those who attended. Activities for children were also included, as organizers set up carnival-style games, face-painting activities, and a meet-and-greet with Smokey the Bear.

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