News Headlines 02/17/2022

- Cal Fire battles 1,800 acre “Airport Fire” near city of Bishop, 0% contained
- California wildfire near airport burns 1,800 acres, officials say; evacuations ordered
INYO COUNTY, Calif. -- Cal Fire San Bernardino said the "Airport Fire" near the Bishop Airport has spread over 1,800 acres and is 0% contained as of 8 p.m. on Wednesday night.

No structure damage or injuries have been reported, and the cause is still under investigation according to Cal Fire. The Airport Fire started on Wednesday just after 4 p.m., according to Cal Fire.

California wildfire near airport burns 1,800 acres, officials say; evacuations ordered

By Celina Tebor, USA TODAY

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A wildfire started near the Sierra Nevada mountains in California on Wednesday, burning through 1,800 acres and forcing evacuations, officials said. The blaze, named the Airport Fire, began right outside the Eastern Sierra Regional Airport in Inyo County, California, around 1:30 p.m., according to CalFire. The fire spread quickly, doubling in size from 50 to 100 acres within 45 minutes.

The Airport Fire remains 0% contained, CalFire said late Wednesday. The agency hasn't identified what caused the blaze. The Owens Valley Radio Observatory and the White Mountain Research Center were both evacuated. The evacuation area was later expanded to include Big Pine, a small town of under 2,000 people east of U.S. 395. The Airport Fire is the latest of many winter blazes to plague California this year.

THIS NEWS IS DEVELOPING INTO THE EVENING: For an update later tonight, sign up for the Evening Briefing.

A pair of unusual winter wildfires last week near Los Angeles and Laguna Beach in Southern California burned several homes, spurred evacuations, and closed a portion of the iconic Pacific Coast Highway. Another fire less than a month ago closed a section of California's famous Highway 1 as a fire burning near the Pacific Ocean prompted evacuations close to the state's Big Sur region.