News Headlines 05/13/2021

- Smoke from Pine Fire in LA County visible from the Victor Valley
- Pine Fire near Piñon Hills grows to 450 acres, 15% containment, Cal Fire says
- Pine Fire: Nearly All Evacuations Lifted as Crews Halt Forward Progress of Wildfire East of Palmdale
- Needles, CA: Small vegetation fire burning along westbound Interstate 40 near mile marker 134.
Smoke from Pine Fire in LA County visible from the Victor Valley
Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group
Posted: May 12, 2021

Photo by Don Perry

VICTOR VALLEY, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A towering plume of smoke from a 2nd alarm brush fire burning in Los Angeles County is visible from the Victor Valley.

The incident dubbed the #PineFire is burning in the community of Llano and is currently at 15 acres with a potential for 40, according to Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Strong winds are fanning flames towards the north and in the path of several homes. Two large air tankers and several helicopters are assisting ground crews. As of 3:00 pm, the fire was at 0% containment and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

Fire crews have established a command post is at San Bernardino County Fire Station 13 on Mountain Road, per scanner reports.

The Victor Valley Transit Authority tweeted and said Route 21P is unable to service the Pinon Hills Community Center due to the fire.

This is a developing situation and additional information will be updated as it becomes available.

UPDATE @ 4:30 PM — Evacuation Warning:
—South of Goss Rd.
—North of Hwy 138
—East of Soledad Rd.
—West of Oasis Rd.

UPDATE @ 4:12 PM — Evacuation area expanded to:
—East of Jubilee Rd.
—West of Mountain Rd.
—South of Hwy 138
—North of Tamarack Rd.

UPDATE @ 3:40 PM — CalFire BDU issued an alert reporting mandatory evacuations going into effect for Highway 138 south to Pine View Road and Buchanan Road east to Smoke Tree Road.
UPDATE @ 3:20 PM – The fire is reported to have grown to 150 acres, a dangerous rate of spread with structures threatened, and a potential of 300 acres.

UPDATE @ 3:15 PM — At least one structure has been lost. A KTLA news helicopter over the scene broadcasted images of a home fully engulfed by the pine fire.

Pine Fire near Piñon Hills grows to 450 acres, 15% containment, Cal Fire says

Martin Estacio, Victorville Daily Press
Posted: May 12, 2021 at 3:59PM

Approximately 500 firefighters on the ground and in the air responded to the Pine Fire near Pinon Hills, Calif. on Wednesday, May 12, 2021. Their efforts stopped the blaze's forward rate of spread in fewer than five hours. James Quigg for The Daily Press

The Pine Fire burning near Piñon Hills grew to 450 acres and destroyed at least one structure Wednesday night as hundreds of firefighters from multiple agencies worked into the evening to strengthen containment lines, officials said.

Cal Fire said approximately 500 firefighters on the ground and in the air stopped the forward rate of spread in fewer than five hours after the blaze started near the Los Angeles County line Wednesday afternoon.

In a statement, Cal Fire said its San Bernardino unit and Los Angeles County Fire Department crews responded shortly after 1:30 p.m. to the Pine Fire, which originated west of Piñon Hills and south of Highway 138.

A Los Angeles County Fire helicopter drops water on the Pine Fire in Pinon Hills on Wednesday, May 12 2021. The fire consumed 180 acres by 5:16 p.m.

"The fire was driven by shifting and gusty wind conditions over a dry landscape, which consisted of light, flashy fuels interspersed with heavier fuels," Cal Fire said in the statement.

Cal Fire did not specify what type of structure was destroyed, saying only that it was near where the fire started. Additional damage inspections are ongoing.

Just over 7,600 people live in the unincorporated San Bernardino County community of Piñon Hills. Roughly 100 homes were initially ordered to evacuate shortly after 3:30 p.m. The orders were in effect from Highway 138 South to Pine View Road, and east of Buchannon Road to Smoke Tree Road.

Officials later expanded the evacuation zone to east of Jubilee Road, west of Mountain Road, south of Highway 138 and north of Tamarack Road.

Authorities again expanded the zone before 4:30 p.m. to include an evacuation warning for those living south of Goss Road, north of Highway 138, east of Soledad Road and west of Oasis Road.

The Pine Fire burns on Wednesday, May 12, 2021.
As of 9:10 p.m., evacuation orders remained in effect for a small number of homes in Los Angeles County, west of Jubilee Road, Cal Fire said.

"All other Evacuation Orders and Evacuation Warnings have been lifted," Cal Fire said. "Highway 138 between Oasis Rd. and 263rd St. remains closed except for residents."

Initially, Highway 138, between Oasis Road and 263rd Street remained closed except for residents. At 10:24 p.m., Cal Fire said the highway had reopened to all traffic. The agency asked motorists to use caution as fire equipment and personnel continued to operate in the area.

"Crews will work through the night to strengthen containment lines, mop up and patrol the fire," Cal Fire said.

A firefighter battles the Pine Fire near Piñon Hills, Calif. on Wednesday, May 12, 2021. More than 500 firefighters from multiple agencies responded to the 450-acre blaze.

Authorities first reported firefighters on scene in the area of Highway 138 and 248th Street East. That area lies within the unincorporated L.A. County community of Llano, just west of Piñon Hills and the San Bernardino County-L.A. County line.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department said shortly after 4 p.m. that the Pine Fire had burned about 165 acres with 0% containment.

"Units on-scene reporting 15-acre brush fire running with winds," Los Angeles County tweeted. “Structures threatened."

**San Bernardino County Fire** Battalion Chief Mike McClintock said his department had sent a "full response."

150 acres as of 3:03 p.m.
165 acres as of 4:05 p.m.
180 acres as of 4:46 p.m.

Officials reported 0% containment until Cal Fire's Wednesday evening update.

The National Weather Service said winds in the area were in the 6 to 10 mph range with gusts up to 26 mph as firefighters battled the blaze.

Personnel from **San Bernardino County Fire**, Angeles National Forest, San Bernardino National Forest, California Highway Patrol, and Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County sheriff's departments responded. L.A. County Fire and Cal Fire are in unified command.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

LLANO (CBSLA) – Firefighters Thursday were continuing to battle a wind-driven wildfire which broke out in the Antelope Valley east of Palmdale Wednesday afternoon, destroying at least one home and forcing dozens of residents to evacuate.

As of late Wednesday night, forward progress on the Pine Fire burning in the Llano area had been halted. The fire has burned 450 acres and was 15% contained, according to the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Nearly all evacuation orders have been lifted except for a small number of homes west of Jubilee Road.

The fire was first reported at 1:35 p.m. at Highway 138 and 248th Street East. It quickly grew thanks to dry conditions and gusty winds, forcing the mandatory evacuation of about 100 homes, according to CAL Fire.

About 500 ground and air personnel were called in from multiple agencies, including Cal Fire, the U.S. Forest Service and the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

With the help of air tankers and water-dropping helicopters, crews had stopped forward progress of the fire in about five hours, LACFD reports.

One home near the origin point of the fire was destroyed. Officials are still assessing if any other structures were damaged or destroyed.

The cause is under investigation. There were no reported injuries.

Small vegetation fire burning along westbound Interstate 40 near mile marker 134
Zachary Lopez, Zach News
Posted: May 12, 2021

Source: California Highway Patrol and San Bernardino County Fire Department (Information):

Needles, California: Small vegetation fire is burning along westbound Interstate 40 near mile marker 134.

The call came into dispatch at 3:08 p.m. PT on Wednesday, May 12th, 2021 of the small vegetation fire along the center divider.

Firefighters from San Bernardino County Fire Department’s Station 32 responded to the scene and report a 40 by 2 spot fire.

As of 3:28 p.m. PT, Medical Engine 32 reports fire is out.

https://zachnews.net/2021/05/12/breaking-news-needles-ca-small-vegetation-fire-burning-along-westbound-interstate-40-near-mile-marker-134/