



NEWS



News Headlines 07/23/2020

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A Cal Fire Grunman S-2T air tanker drops fire retardant precisely along the line of spread just east of Highway 330 while fighting the Easton Fire Monday afternoon, July 20. Hector Hernandez Jr

Monday afternoon, July 20, a wildfire was reported in the foothills near Highland east of Highway 330 and north of Highland Avenue and by 2 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, the fire was reported 100 percent contained at 71 acres.

According Incident Commander Dan Wooters, the blaze was called in at approximately 4:45 p.m. on Monday. It was quickly attacked by a well coordinated response of ground crews and heavy aerial support.

A full response was requested from the San Bernardino National Forest Service and **San Bernardino County Fire** to limit the spread of the wildfire.

“We had one air attack plane, a lead plane, four tankers and five helicopters working under a unified command to stop the fire,” said Wooters.

“What helps us get these fires out quickly is the cooperation between the state, federal and local governments,” said Assistant Chief Kathleen Opliger, who was on hand to monitor the operation.

This is possible through the MMA, Mass Mutual Aide Agreement, which has been established.

Opliger commented that the quick cooperative effort with the Forest Service and other agencies was the reason the fire did not grow past 50 acres.

“The fixed wing and rotary aircraft assisted with stopping the forward rate of spread of the fire,” said Opliger.

According to Opliger, having such an effective air assault, the ground crews were able to establish control.

“This way, our ground crews can get in and put in lines,” she said. “We employed S-2 aircraft from Cal Fire. A lead plane directed these planes to their targets.”

Opliger emphasized the importance of the lead plane.

“The lead plane has to determine the ingress and egress before telling the planes to come in,” said Opliger.

“They check the topography and to see if there are people on the ground.

“The responsibility of that plane is to make sure that it is safe to drop the fire retardant and to leave the area out of harm’s way.”

The Del Rosa Hotshots and Mill Creek Hotshots made up the ground crews.

“We can’t fight a fire without the help of the Hotshots and ground crew,” said Oplinger. “Those people put a control line around the fire.

“They separate the green fuel from the burnt fuel so that the fire doesn’t jump the line. They go down to mineral soil.”

The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department provided rotary aircraft support to the other aircraft.

Units from Redlands Fire, Rancho Cucamonga Fire and the San Manuel Fire Department were also dispatched to the fire for additional support.

According to Wooters, the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

No structures were threatened and no injuries were reported.

https://www.highlandnews.net/news/public_safety/easton-fire-contained-at-71-acres/article_b945bad4-cc3b-11ea-a945-273d67ea0ff8.html