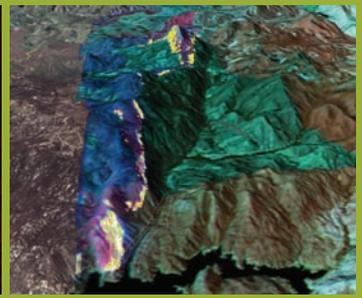


# CALIFORNIA FIRE SIEGE 2007

## AN OVERVIEW





*Cover photos from top clockwise:*

*The Santiago Fire threatens a development on October 23, 2007.*

*(Photo credit: Scott Vickers, istockphoto)*

*Image of Harris Fire taken from Ikhana unmanned aircraft on October 24, 2007.*

*(Photo credit: NASA/U.S. Forest Service)*

*A firefighter tries in vain to cool the flames of a wind-whipped blaze.*

*(Photo credit: Dan Elliot)*

*The American Red Cross acted quickly to establish evacuation centers during the siege.*

*(Photo credit: American Red Cross)*

*Opposite Page:*

*Painting of Harris Fire by Kate Dore, based on photo by Wes Schultz.*



## *Introductory Statement*

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In October of 2007, a series of large wildfires ignited and burned hundreds of thousands of acres in Southern California. The fires displaced nearly one million residents, destroyed thousands of homes, and sadly took the lives of 10 people.

Shortly after the fire siege began, a team was commissioned by CAL FIRE, the U.S. Forest Service and OES to gather data and measure the response from the numerous fire agencies involved. This report is the result of the team's efforts and is based upon the best available information and all known facts that have been accumulated.

In addition to outlining the fire conditions leading up to the 2007 siege, this report presents statistics—including availability of firefighting resources, acreage engaged, and weather conditions—alongside the strategies that were employed by fire commanders to create a complete day-by-day account of the firefighting effort.

The ability to protect the lives, property, and natural resources of the residents of California is contingent upon the strength of cooperation and coordination among federal, state and local firefighting agencies. By utilizing the information contained within this report, fire managers will create lessons learned that will be utilized continually to improve the response to wildfires.

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