

The Fires: Day 7

Saturday, October 27, 2007

Predictive Services Morning Report:

A trough off the California coast will combine with some subtropical moisture to produce widespread cloudiness today across region, along with a few light showers or sprinkles. Temperatures will be seasonable and the humidity will rise a little over most of the fires with the mid-level moisture overhead. In the fire areas, temperatures will mainly be in the 70s-to-low-80s and humidity values should rise to the 15-to-30% range. East-to-southeast winds this morning will switch to the southwest and west at 8-to-18 miles per hour this afternoon.

Today's Events:

Fire activity on the **Harris Fire** decreases dramatically as humidity increases. Evacuation orders are lifted for all areas. Firing operations are successful along Wilson Creek. Direct line construction continues in Hauser Canyon near Barrett Lake. Alternate control lines are constructed to support the Lawson Valley contingency plan. Air tanker operations on the fire are concluded. Helicopter operations continue to support ground troops.

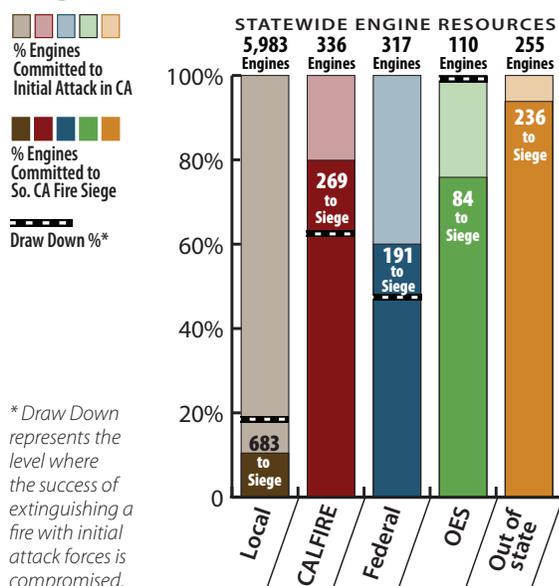
- Governor Schwarzenegger holds a press conference to reinforce the state and law enforcement's commitment to capture and prosecute arsonists and to discuss further actions to protect fire victims against price gouging and insurance scams.

Various aerial infrared platforms fly the fire to identify hot spots and help refine the fire perimeter map. Search and rescue operations continue. Damage inspection of burned structures is ongoing. Assessments of areas for fire suppression rehabilitation needs are under way.

Good progress is made in containing fire spread on all flanks of the **Slide Fire**. The estimated number of residences threatened in the communities of Crab Flats, Running Springs, Smiley Park and Arrowbear decreases from 10,000 to 5,500. However, closure orders remain in effect. Utility companies work hard to support re-entry of evacuated residents. Very light precipitation occurs over some areas of fire.

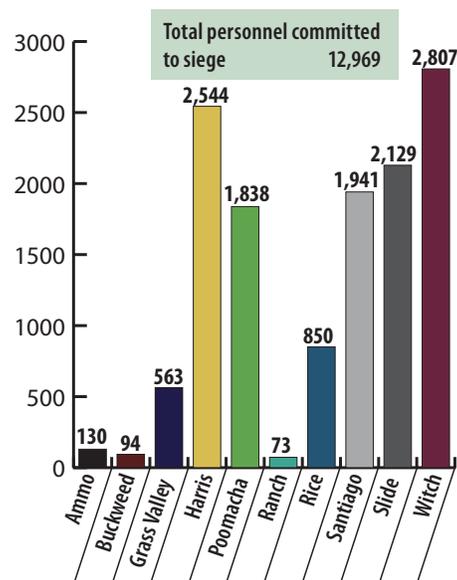
Resources Committed:

Engines, October 27, 2007



Resources Committed:

Personnel, October 27, 2007



The **Poomacha Fire** experiences moderate fire behavior with short runs upslope to ridge tops. The estimated number of residences threatened decreases from 2,000 to 500. The reported number of residences destroyed increases from 78 to 136. There is a short period of light rain on the fire, but it has little effect.

■ ESF-2 demobilized.

Cooler weather and cloud cover slow down fire behavior on the **Santiago Fire**. However, a potential change in the weather bringing warmer and drier conditions is forecast for tomorrow. Current and future threats to property and structures still exist as the fire slowly backs down Silverado Canyon. Bulldozers continue to work to tie in control lines above Silverado Canyon and North Main Divide.

■ California Department of Social Services to administer cash grants of up to \$10,000 to help individuals who have suffered losses in the fires.

The **Witch Fire** experiences no significant fire spread overnight, and good progress on containment occurs on all

branches. Open line in the San Diego river drainage and the Poomacha Fire interface area is an ongoing concern. Warm, dry and unstable conditions still exist at the higher elevations. Re-entry begins to the Del Dios, Alpine and Peutz Valley areas. San Diego Gas and Electric starts restoring utility service to some affected areas. Meanwhile, firefighters continue to implement strategies to minimize the impacts to the Agua Tibia Wilderness.

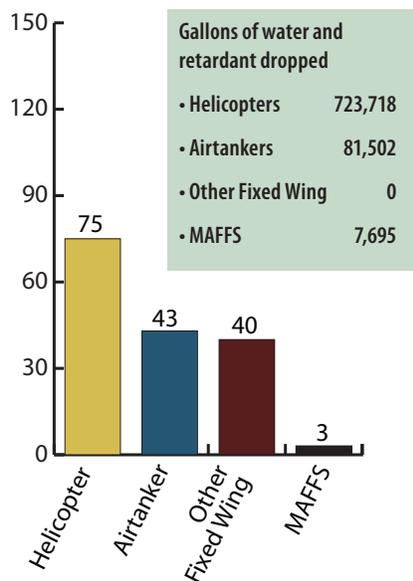
Line construction on fire perimeter and mop-up around structures is almost complete for the **Rice Fire**. Full containment of the fire is expected tomorrow as light precipitation aids mop-up operations. All portions of Fallbrook are opened to residents. Demobilization of excess resources continues.

The fire line is completed for the **Grass Valley Fire**, with effective mop-up of the perimeter progressing.

The **Slide Fire** reports progress containing the fire spread on the south and southwest flanks. Area closure orders remain in effect for a large area surrounding the Grass Valley and Slide Fires. Power, gas, and water companies work in fire areas to restore services. Coordinated efforts with cooperating agencies and utility companies for re-entry into the mandatory evacuation area continue.

At the **Ammo Fire**, evacuation orders are lifted for the camp and power is restored. Demobilization is planned for the next day.

■ Resources Committed: Aircraft, Flight Hours, October 27, 2007



A pair of trees frame a smoky sunset during the October siege.



WES SCHULTZ