





## Update

## August 24, 2020 8:00 AM

Public Information Phone: (831) 272-0222 Media Information Phone: (831) 272-0221 Incident E-mail: 2020.Dolan@firenet.gov

Incident Website: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7018

Los Padres National Forest: <a href="www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf">www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf</a> Facebook: <a href="facebook.com/lospadresnationalforest">facebook.com/lospadresnationalforest</a>

Twitter: <a href="mailto:twitter.com/LosPadresNF">twitter: twitter.com/LosPadresNF</a> Big Sur FD: <a href="https://bigsurfire.org/">https://bigsurfire.org/</a>

## **Incident Information:**

Start / Report Date: Aug. 18, 2020 Size: 20,091 Containment: 10%

Cause: Unknown Location: Hwy 1(MM32.20) N of Injuries: 0 Fuels Involved: Chaparral, Brush, Limekiln State Park, 10 miles S of

Timber understory Big Sur

Resources:

Hand Crews: 9 Helicopters: 4 Total Personnel: 579

Engines: 42 Fixed wing: 1
Dozers: 6 Water Tenders: 6

## **Current Situation:**

The Red Flag Warning has been cancelled for today.

The fire actively burned throughout the night. Fire activity moderated in the early morning hours as humidity increased. An Infrared flight was flown last night which contributed to the stated increase in acres, with an estimated growth of 500 acres.

Overnight crews were able to complete indirect handline around the communities of Lucia, Morning Glory, and Partington. These handlines will provide additional protection and management options for firefighters in the event that fire progresses towards the structures.

Today, crews will continue to focus on point protection on the North, West, and South ends of the fire. Crews will also be constructing indirect lines to support future containment operations. The hazard of rolling rocks and spot fires continue to be safety concerns for crews in all divisions, especially along Hwy 1.

Aerial resources will look to take advantage of clear skies when possible to assist ground resources with retardant and bucket drops. As air quality and visibility improve, aviation assets will support crews on the ground.

Yesterday, the Monterey County Sheriff's Department entered into unified command with California Incident Management Team 2 and Big Sur Fire. The incident management team completed the move into a new incident command post at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park.

The fire is threatening the communities of Hermitage, Partington Ridge, and Lucia. Multiple businesses, communications sites, parks and recreational sites are also threatened. Among natural resources threatened are the Ventana Wilderness and coastal watershed and habitat for threatened and endangered species,

including the California condor.

Fire activity in the western United States has caused a high demand for fire personnel and equipment. The nation is in Preparedness Level 5 (PL5), the highest level. In PL5 over 80% of the nation's incident management teams and wildland firefighting personnel are committed to incidents. Resource orders are being prioritized to fires across California and the west. Acreage reported here is an estimate and will be updated when IR images are available.

Carmel Fire Info: <a href="https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2020/8/18/carmel-fire/">https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2020/8/18/carmel-fire/</a></a>
River Fire Info: <a href="https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2020/8/16/river-fire/">https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2020/8/16/river-fire/</a>

**Updates and Meetings:** Fire Information is producing two daily written updates. To request an update, email <a href="mailto:2020.dolan@firenet.gov">2020.dolan@firenet.gov</a> and provide your email address. A daily video update will be posted to the Los Padres National Forest Facebook page and Inciweb (See links in header).

**Weather:** The Red Flag Warning has been cancelled for today. The weather is expected to be partly to mostly cloudy, with winds of 5-12 miles per hour with gusts of 20 miles per hour on the ridgetops.

**Evacuations / Closures:** Click <u>here</u> for an interactive map of Monterey County evacuations.

**Smoke:** The Monterey Bay Air Resources District has issued a Wildfire Air Quality Advisory. When the concentration of smoke has reached UNHEALTHY levels of the AQI, residents should limit their activity by staying indoors with the doors and windows closed to avoid breathing smoke. Updates on the current air quality forecast and Air Monitoring data can be found at <a href="http://air.mbard.org/">http://air.mbard.org/</a>.

**Alert Monterey County:** To receive emergency notifications regarding evacuations and critical events in Monterey County please sign up for Alert Monterey County at the following website: https://member.everbridge.net/453003085611217/login.

**Cooperating and Assisting Organizations:** National Weather Service, California Highway Patrol, Monterey County Sheriff's Department, Big Sur Volunteers, Cal Trans, California State Parks, OES, Ventana Wilderness Alliance

**Safety Message:** This will be a long duration event. Residents in the affected area are encouraged to continue to prepare for the possibility of fire in their area in advance. Go to <a href="https://www.ready.gov/wildfires">https://www.ready.gov/wildfires</a> to learn how to prepare.