



NEWS



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Sheep fire evacuations lifted, blaze near Wrightwood 35% contained

By Ruby Gonzalez and Quinn Wilson, EASTBAYTIMES.COM

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San Bernardino County Fire Battalion Chief Mike McClintock briefs Wrightwood residents on the status of the Sheep fire on Monday, June 13, 2022, as it burns near the mountain community. (Photo by Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

The Sheep Fire burning north of Wrightwood was measured at 997 acres and was 35% contained as of Tuesday evening, June 14, authorities said. The containment was up from 27% Monday night while acreage was up by just 7 acres.

“Fire is same footprint and not really growing, which is great,” said Battalion Chief Mike McClintock of the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

He said firefighters continue to work on mop-up and line construction. Favorable winds and cooler temperatures are aiding their efforts, he added.

By 8 p.m., all evacuation warnings and orders for the Wrightwood area were lifted, the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department said. The area of Highway 2 closed by the fire changed Tuesday night. The highway is now closed from Desert Front Road to Wright Mountain Road. Anyone living east of Desert Front Road can access their property from Highway 138. Anyone living in the Wrightwood area can access their property through Lone Pine Canyon, Caltrans said.

The Sheep fire, which started Saturday night in the Angeles National Forest, led to the evacuation of 300 people on Sunday when it grew fueled by windy conditions. The fire has not damaged any structures. The cause of the blaze is under investigation.

The fire is burning in the forest and in private land near Wrightwood. Mountain High Resort, a popular ski resort on Highway 2, tweeted the fire was receding and “all is safe for the moment” Tuesday afternoon. A high-pressure system was expected to bring drier, warmer weather.

“We will see lighter winds today (Tuesday) and tomorrow,” said Adam Roser, a National Weather Service meteorologist. Wrightwood was expected to see a high of 78 Tuesday, then temperatures will hit the upper 80s Wednesday and Thursday, he said.

But the winds will start to increase Thursday, Roser said. There may be gusts of 20 or up to 30 mph.

The Sheep fire also caused internet and cell service outages after powerlines carrying fiber optic lines were affected, McClintock said. Mobile cell sites, such as a portable communications tower brought in by AT&T, were brought in to help with service coverage for the area, he said.

It wasn’t immediately clear when the outages first happened and how long it would take for services to be fully restored. Southern California Edison sent an email to customers that repairs would be scheduled for Thursday, meaning power will be turned off for some residents.

“Our thoughts are with the community that has been affected by this fire,” Diane Castro, a spokeswoman for SCE said. “Our crews are in the area working to rebuild electric infrastructure that was damaged by the fire, which includes this emergency repair outage so that our crews can work safely.”

Twelve people have stayed at an evacuation center since it opened on Sunday in Phelan, said Brianna Kelly, regional communications manager for the American Red Cross Southern California Region. Three stayed inside the shelter and nine people chose to stay in the outside RV parking area, she added. The shelter will close now that the evacuations were lifted.

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2022/06/15/sheep-fire-near-wrightwood-35-contained/>

Evacuation orders lifted for Sheep Fire, smoke expected to dissipate in the Victor Valley

By Rene De LA Cruz, VVDAILY.COM

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A fire engine is seen as the Sheep fire burns in Wrightwood on Monday.

Update 8:20 p.m. Tuesday: The evacuation warnings and orders for the Sheep Fire were lifted on Tuesday night, according to San Bernardino County Fire officials.

While firefighters on Tuesday morning held the Sheep Fire at nearly 990 acres, with 35% containment near Wrightwood, smoke from the blaze continued to move into the Victor Valley and mountain communities.

At around 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Angeles National Forest reported nearly the same acreage and containment numbers, and with the cause of the fire under investigation

The South Coast Air Quality Management District issued a two-day smoke advisory for northwest San Bernardino Valley, central San Bernardino Valley, west and central San Bernardino Mountains.

The SCAQMD also reported that winds transported the smoke plume east toward places like Hesperia, Victorville, Big Bear and Lake Arrowhead.

Areas immediately adjacent to the Sheep Fire will experience the highest air quality index levels due to smoke impacts. However, areas further downwind are likely to see lighter smoke levels through Tuesday evening, the agency reported.

Overall, the fire is not expected to degrade air quality beyond the moderate level, except in areas close to the fire, where unhealthy conditions may be possible for several hours.

The SCAQMD suggests that if you smell smoke or see ash due to a wildfire, limit your exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed or seeking alternate shelter and avoiding vigorous physical activity.

The Sheep Fire

Unified command of the fire remains with SBC Fire, Angeles National Forest, and the Cal Fire San Bernardino/Inyo/Mono unit. Firefighters had great success on Monday. working on containment lines, mopping up, and securing perimeter control, fire officials said.

More favorable wind conditions allowed fixed-wing and rotor aircraft to extensively work from the air, while more than 300 firefighters on the ground were successful in increasing containment. Crews also continued to work overnight to increase containment and hot spots.

The Sheep Fire continues to burn both in the Angeles National Forest and on private land near Wrightwood, where no structures have been burned.

Fighting this fire has been especially challenging due to dense vegetation, steep terrain, and high and erratic winds. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

A total of 673 firefighting personnel worked the incident, with additional staff from the Bureau of Land Management and county and local resources.

Evacuations for Sheep Fire

The evacuation warnings and orders for the Sheep Fire were lifted on Tuesday night, according to the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

On Sunday, the SBC Sheriff's Department issued a mandatory evacuation order in the community of Phelan on Desert Front Road and Wildhorse Canyon. The community of Wrightwood continues to be on an evacuation warning.

Several evacuation orders and warnings took place in the area to the east and northeast of the town of Wrightwood on Sunday. For specific evacuation orders and warnings, follow the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Twitter site [@sbcountysheriff](#) or visit Inwccg.gov.

The California Highway Patrol on Tuesday reported that Highway 2 between Hwy. 138 and Sheep Creek Drive was closed to the general public. Only residents that live within the closure and emergency personnel vehicles are permitted to access the closed area. All other travel to the town of Wrightwood can be made via Hwy. 138 to Lone Pine Canyon Road.

Sheep Fire evacuation centers

There is a Red Cross evacuation center at Serrano High School at 9292 Sheep Creek Road in Phelan. The center will transition to an overnight shelter at 8:30 p.m. Anyone looking for loved ones that may be at the shelter can call the Red Cross Family Reunification number at 800-733-2767.

SBC Animal Care and Control announced that small animals and livestock will be accepted at the Devore Animal Shelter at 19777 Shelter Way in San Bernardino.

Livestock and small animals will also be accepted at the San Bernardino Fairgrounds, at 14800 Seventh Street in Victorville. Residents are advised to contact county animal care and control in advance at 800-472-5609.

For more information about evacuation locations for large animals, contact SBC Animal Control at 1-800-472-5609.

<https://www.vvdailynews.com/story/news/2022/06/14/california-wildfires-sheep-fire-updates-acres-contained-evacuations-burn-area/7628960001/>

US Struggles With Climate Catastrophes

By Andrew Shawn, VERVETIMES.COM

Posted: June 15, 2022



A handout photo courtesy of the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department shows crews battling a fast-moving brush fire in Wrightwood, California, as extreme climate in June 2022 affects large parts of the United States.

Raging floods, devastating fires, powerful thunderstorms, and a dangerous heat wave affecting a third of the population: The United States was being walloped Tuesday by climate-related catastrophes. A series of slow-motion disasters is gripping the country as it enters summer, with warnings of misery for months to come in some areas.

Around 120 million people were under some sort of advisory as a heat wave scorched the Upper Midwest and the Southeast.

“A dome of high pressure is expected to generate well-above-normal to record-breaking temperatures across the region both today and tomorrow,” with heat indices “well into the triple digits in many locations,” the National Weather Service (NWS) said.

Parts of Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio were warned to expect the mercury to reach 109 degrees Fahrenheit (43 Celsius).

NWS meteorologist Alex Lamers said the high pressure dome was sparking extreme events around its periphery.

“A lot of times you get a pretty big heatwave and if you look around the edges of that you’ll see thunderstorms and tornadoes, flash flooding, extreme rainfall,” he told AFP.

Storms

The heat dome’s northern edge, where high temperatures collided with colder air, saw some violent storms Monday. Hundreds of thousands of people were without power in the Midwest after thunderstorms tore through the area. That cold front was expected to bring more unsettled weather, with hail and damaging winds forecast.

Further west, dramatic photographs and videos published by the National Park Service showed the devastation wreaked by flooding in Yellowstone, the country’s oldest national park. The 3,400 square-mile (8,900 square-kilometer) park in Wyoming, which is home to the famous Old Faithful geyser, was shuttered on Monday after a flooded river swept away roads and cut off a nearby community. Rangers warned of “extremely hazardous conditions” and told anyone still in the park to get out.

“Flood levels measured on the Yellowstone River are beyond record levels,” the NPS said on its website.

“Preliminary assessments show multiple sections of roads throughout the park have been either washed out or covered in mud or rocks, and multiple bridges may be affected.”

The small community of Gardiner, which sits just outside the park boundary in the state of Montana, was cut off, with water and power out to several properties, the NPS said.

Furnace

There were also warnings of excessive heat for parts of California and Arizona, which were blasted by furnace-like conditions at the weekend. The soaring temperatures coupled with a lengthy drought are worsening seasonal wildfires.

Two huge blazes, each of more than 300,000 acres (120,000 hectares), continued to rage Tuesday in New Mexico. Firefighters battling the Black Fire and the Hermits Peak fire are working to contain flames that are fuelled by exceedingly dry undergrowth. New Mexico and much of the Southwest has been gripped by a punishing drought that has left rainfall levels below normal for years. Dozens of other fires have sprung up throughout the region.

Wildfires are an expected part of the natural cycle, which help to remove dead plants and eliminate disease while promoting new growth. But their size and ferocity has increased in recent years, firefighters say, as effects of the crippling drought make themselves felt.

“Dry conditions and gusty winds are expected to produce another day of elevated to critical fire weather conditions across portions of the Southwest into the central and southern High Plains,” NWS said on its website.

Fire chiefs are warning that 2022 looks set to be a terrible year for wildfires.

“Given the fuel conditions, the fire conditions that we’re here talking about, I foresee a very tough four, five, six months in front of us,” Orange County, California Fire Chief Brian Fennessy said last week.

Scientists say global warming, which is being driven chiefly by humanity’s unchecked burning of fossil fuels, is making extreme weather events more likely.

Lamer, of the National Weather Service, said while it was difficult to conclude the changing climate was behind an individual episode, global warming was an underlying factor.

“Any weather event that you’re looking, there’s some combination of bad luck, the atmosphere has to be set up in a certain way,” he said.

“But they all happen in the context of climate, and basically climate change loads the dice and makes more extreme outcomes more likely.”

Wildfire tears through California forest as temperatures rocket.

<https://vervetimes.com/us-struggles-with-climate-catastrophes/>

Sheep Fire Closes Parts of Highway 2 in Angeles National Forest

By Staff Writer, MYNEWSLA.COM

Posted: June 14, 2022



Fire Fighter - Photo courtesy of Pexels Rodnae Productions Unsplash

Highway 2 from Highway 138 to Sheep Creek Road remains closed Tuesday because of the Sheep fire in the Angeles National Forest near Wrightwood, authorities reported.

There were about 300 people evacuated from near the fire area on Sunday. No structures have been burned, according to the Angeles National Forest.

Firefighters from the Angeles National Forest and **San Bernardino County Fire** Department say fighting the fire has been challenging because of dense vegetation, steep terrain, and high and erratic winds. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

There are 673 firefighters battling the fire, including staff from the Bureau of Land Management. As of Monday night, the fire was 27% contained and has burned 990 acres.

The Sheep fire started Saturday night. There is a Red Cross evacuation center open at Serrano High School at 9292 Sheep Creek Road in Phelan. The community of Phelan on Desert Front Road and Wildhorse Canyon are under mandatory evacuation orders and warnings. Wrightwood is in an evacuation warning.

Multiple powerlines are down, and a communication tower has been impacted and out of power, according to reports from the Angeles National Forest.

<https://mynews1a.com/crime/2022/06/14/sheep-fire-closes-parts-of-highway-2-in-angeles-national-forest/>