



# NEWS



## News Headlines 09/18 – 09/21/2020

- El Dorado Fire in San Bernardino National Forest burns 22,576 acres, blaze 59% contained
- California wildfire likely to grow from wind, low humidity
- Local Battalion Chief Talks About The El Dorado Fire
- Bobcat Fire prompts evacuation warnings for Wrightwood and Pinon Hills
- 2 airlifted after rollover crash in Hesperia Saturday night
- Woman killed in Lucerne Valley hit-and-run, CHP searching for Driver

## El Dorado Fire in San Bernardino National Forest burns 22,576 acres, blaze 59% contained

Staff Writer, ABC7

Posted: September 21, 2020 at 6:02AM



The El Dorado Fire that grew to more than 22,000 acres in the San Bernardino National Forest is now 59 percent contained, fire officials say.

The El Dorado Fire that grew to more than 22,000 acres in the San Bernardino National Forest is now 59 percent contained, fire officials say.

Crews will be working on Monday to clear up a large rock and debris slide that caused Highway 38 to close down.

A firefighter who was battling the blaze was found dead on Thursday, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

The fire started more than two weeks ago at a gender reveal party, and has burned 22,576 acres.

Because of the smoke from El Dorado Fire, the Snow Fire in **San Bernardino County**, and the Bobcat Fire in Los Angeles County, the South Coast Air Quality Management District extended its air quality advisory through Monday.

Wildfires in California this year are blamed for at least 25 deaths.

<https://abc7.com/el-dorado-fire-firefighter-death-california-updates/6480301/>

## California wildfire likely to grow from wind, low humidity

Stefanie Dazio, ABC6 News

Posted: September 20, 2020 at 6:01PM



Jesse Vasquez, of the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, hoses down hot spots from the Bobcat Fire on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020, in Valyermo, Calif. (AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The destruction wrought by a wind-driven wildfire in the mountains northeast of Los Angeles approached 156 square miles (404 square kilometers) Sunday, burning structures, homes and a nature center in a famed Southern California wildlife sanctuary in foothill desert communities.

The blaze, known as the Bobcat Fire, is expected to grow through Sunday and Monday as critical fire weather conditions continued due to gusty wind and low humidity. Additional evacuation warnings were issued Sunday afternoon.

Firefighters were, however, able to defend Mount Wilson this weekend, which overlooks greater Los Angeles in the San Gabriel Mountains and has a historic observatory founded more than a century ago and numerous broadcast antennas serving Southern California.

The Bobcat Fire started Sept. 6 and has already doubled in size over the last week - becoming one of Los Angeles County's largest wildfires in history, according to the Los Angeles Times. No injuries have been reported.

The blaze is 15% contained as teams attempt to determine the scope of the destruction in the area about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northeast of downtown LA. Thousands of residents in the foothill communities of the Antelope Valley were ordered to evacuate Saturday as winds pushed the flames into Juniper Hills.

Roland Pagan watched his Juniper Hills house burn through binoculars as he stood on a nearby hill, according to the Los Angeles Times .

"The ferocity of this fire was shocking," Pagan, 80, told the newspaper. "It burned my house alive in just 20 minutes."

Resident Perry Chamberlain evacuated initially but returned to extinguish a fire inside his storage container, according to the Southern California News Group, and ended up helping others put out a small fire in their horse stall.

Chamberlain said Juniper Hills had been like a majestic "sylvan forest" but the fire burned the Juniper and sage brush and a variety of trees.

"It used to be Juniper Hills," he said. "Now it's just Hills."

The wildfire also destroyed the nature center at Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area, a geological wonder that attracts some 130,000 visitors per year.

Though the Bobcat Fire neared the high desert community of Valyermo, a Benedictine monastery there appeared to have escaped major damage, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Statewide, nearly 19,000 firefighters continue to fight more than two dozen major wildfires. More than 7,900 wildfires have burned more than 5,468 square miles (14,164 square kilometers) in California this year, including many since a mid-August barrage of dry lightning ignited parched vegetation.

Meanwhile, officials were investigating the death of a firefighter on the lines of another Southern California wildfire that erupted earlier this month from a smoke-generating pyrotechnic device used by a couple to reveal their baby's gender.

The death occurred Thursday in San Bernardino National Forest as crews battled the El Dorado Fire about 75 miles (120 kilometers) east of Los Angeles, the U.S. Forest Service said in a statement.

The name of the firefighter killed has not yet been released. A statement from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire, said it was the 26th death involving wildfires besieging the state.

Authorities also have not released the identities of the couple, who could face criminal charges and be held liable for the cost of fighting the fire.

In Wyoming, a rapidly growing wildfire in the southeastern part of the state was closing in on a reservoir that's a major source of water for the capital city, Cheyenne.

The water system remained safe and able to filter out ash and other burned material that flows through streams and reservoirs after wildfires, said Clint Bassett, water treatment manager for the Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities.

<https://www.kaaltv.com/national-news/southern-california-wildfire-grows-burns-nature-center/5868370/?cat=10159>

## Local Battalion Chief Talks About The El Dorado Fire

Staff Writer, Z107.7FM

Posted: September 18, 2020



San Bernardino County Fire Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle talked about the work firefighters are doing in the El Dorado Fire in the Angelus Oaks area. Courtesy San Bernardino County Fire Department

**San Bernardino County Fire** Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle was barely home from working the Apple Fire in August when he was sent out again to augment firefighters working on the El Dorado Fire. Managing editor Tami Roleff files this report from the fire captain, who talks about fighting the fire in the Angelus Oaks area...

“This morning we told our firefighters, if this was your house, prep it like it was your house.” Fire Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle was with a strike team of firefighters that was charged with structure defense in Angelus Oaks. Crews are creating defensible spaces around houses.

“Defensible space is an area clear of vegetation that gives us a chance to go direct on the fire before it actually impacts the house. It gives us that buffer, that gives us a safety zone space to work in and keep the fire off the house.”

“A house without defensible space is a threat to the houses around it, and it becomes a domino; once one house catches, it’s more likely to catch the houses around it.”

And finally, Tuttle repeated his admonition that residents should evacuate if necessary.

“When we have residents in area, and we’re trying to get equipment up here, it hampers our efforts. the sooner folks can get out and let us get to work, the better off we’ll all be.”

<http://z1077fm.com/local-battalion-chief-talks-about-the-el-dorado-fire/>

## **Bobcat Fire prompts evacuation warnings for Wrightwood and Pinon Hills**

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: September 18, 2020



Looking from Phelan towards Wrightwood. (photo by Brittany Mathis)

WRIGHTWOOD, Calif. (VVNG.com) — The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department issued an evacuation warning Thursday night for the communities of Wrightwood and Pinon Hills as a result of the Bobcat Fire burning in the Angeles National Forest.

**San Bernardino County Fire** said Strike Teams are assembled and ready to protect if the need arises. Sheriff’s officials advised the evacuation route is Highway 2 to Phelan or Highway 138 to I-15.

According to Ready Burbank.org, a voluntary evacuation means you are advised to evacuate regardless if it is mandatory or voluntary and in many instances, evacuation warnings become evacuation orders shortly after.

The BobCat Fire started on September 6th, 2020, has grown to 55,617 acres, and is 9% contained.

The progression of the Bobcat Fire also prompted all Snowline JUSD schools and facilities to close on Friday, September 18, 2020. “This also means that all at-home and homeschool learning will be cancelled for the day,” stated an email from the school.

The Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District posted on Facebook and said they have an Emergency Horse Evacuation Location at 4176 Warbler Road in Phelan. “Our empty lot is open for those of you with horses needed a place to evacuate. Water will be available in the morning.”

If you choose to stay until the evacuation is mandatory (evacuation order is issued), then use this time to prepare to evacuate.

Back your car into the driveway, roll up all the windows, leave the doors unlocked.

Inform other family members you may need to evacuate.

Place pets in carriers and stage inside the home near the door (or for pets on leash, place pets on the leash and secure the leash inside the home near the door). Waiting until you have to evacuate may be too late as some pets may become scared and react by running from you.

Close all the windows in the home.

Gather important documents (insurance policies, marriage & birth certificates, etc.) as well as pictures, photo albums, etc. and stage them inside near the door.

The following areas are under an EVACUATION ORDER:

- Juniper Hills
- Devils Punchbowl
- Paradise Springs

- Including the area East of Devils Punch Bowl Rd, South of the Big Pines Hwy, North of the Big Rock Creek, and West of Jackson Lake.

<https://www.vvng.com/bobcat-fire-prompts-evacuation-warnings-for-wrightwood-and-pinon-hills/>

## 2 Airlifted After Rollover Crash in Hesperia Saturday Night

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: September 19, 2020



(One person was trapped underneath the overturned vehicle. – HUGO VALDEZ, VVNG.com)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Firefighters responded to a rollover crash that critically injured two people Saturday night.

**San Bernardino County Fire** responded to the 9200 block of Cottonwood Avenue between Olive and Sultana Streets just before 9:00 p.m. on September 19, 2020.

Firefighters located four vehicles that were damaged and requested two helicopters for two critically injured people.

According to scanner traffic, one of the critically injured occupants was trapped underneath an overturned white SUV, and it took firefighters about 15 minutes to free the person.

In total, six people were injured, two of them sustained critical injuries and four others sustained minor injuries. Amongst the injured was an elderly female driver of the Hyundai SUV.

The two helicopters, Mercy Air 22 and Reach 13 landed at Hesperia High School just before 9:30 p.m. to further transport the two victims to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

The cause of the crash is under investigation by the Hesperia Police Department.

<https://www.vvng.com/2-airlifted-after-rollover-crash-in-hesperia-saturday-night/>



## Woman killed in Lucerne Valley hit-and-run, CHP searching for Driver

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: September 21, 2020



LUCERNE VALLEY, Calif. (VVNG.com) — The California Highway Patrol is searching for a hit-and-run driver that struck and killed a 55-year-old woman.

On September 17, 2020, at about 12:08 AM Barstow Dispatch received a call of a pedestrian laying on the roadway of State Route 247, east of Midway Avenue.

California Highway Patrol officers from the Victorville Station, Firefighters from **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to the scene.

According to a news release, the female pedestrian was struck by an unknown type vehicle traveling westbound on SR-247. “This impact caused the female pedestrian to be thrown onto the westbound lane of the roadway and causing fatal injuries,” stated the release.

CHP officials said the unknown type vehicle immediately fled the scene following the collision.

The collision is still under investigation and anyone with information is asked to call the Victorville CHP station at 760-241-1186.

<https://www.vvng.com/woman-killed-in-lucerne-valley-hit-and-run-chp-searching-for-driver/>