



NEWS



News Headlines 06/29/2021

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Charlie McGee, Victorville Daily Press

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San Bernardino county Fire and San Bernardino National Forest are in unified command on the Peak Fire, which is near San Bernardino. Courtesy of the San Bernardino National Forest.

A rapidly spreading wildfire has torched over 34 acres of forest north of San Bernardino in about two hours, prompting a shutdown of Highway 18's stretch through the mountains as around 150 federal and county firefighters and 14 aircraft continue efforts to quell the flames.

The wildfire, dubbed the Peak Fire, began around 10:50 a.m. near Old Waterman Canyon Road due to an unknown cause that's being investigated, according to San Bernardino National Forest spokesperson Zach Behrens.

Manpower was deployed early from both the U.S. Forest Service and **San Bernardino County Fire**. As of 12:40 p.m., one firefighter had been "transported for a heat related injury," San Bernardino National Forest said on Twitter.

The Peak Fire crossed Highway 18 in fewer than two hours, Behrens said. As a result, a closure is currently in place on the highway from its intersection with East 40th Street in San Bernardino through its northern stretch to its intersection with Interstate 138.

Drivers should plan on using alternate routes. Behrens said there's no estimate on when the closure will end.

A total of 5 helicopters and 9 airplanes have been deployed to aid authorities in combatting the flames and protecting the public. Yet, the fire still poses a danger to people and residential areas.

"There is an immediate structure threat," San Bernardino National Forest said on Twitter.

At 12:55 p.m., the agency said, "Firefighters are making good progress, almost tied in with hose lay and fire retardant."

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/story/news/fire/2021/06/28/peak-fires-rapid-spread-near-san-bernardino-prompts-highway-18-closure-firefighter-injured/7788311002/>

