



# NEWS



## News Headlines 09/02/2021

- 9-11 Fly Over to Honor First Responders & Fallen Soldiers from Palm Springs Air Museum
- Dixie Fire Update: Wind-Whipped Blaze Rapidly Advances Toward Highway 395; Wall Of Flames Surges Several Miles
- As winds calm over Caldor Fire, crews focus on trouble spots

## 9-11 Fly Over to Honor First Responders & Fallen Soldiers from Palm Springs Air Museum

Staff Writer, PSL

Posted: September 2, 2021

On Saturday, Sept 11, 2021, Seven Palm Springs Air Museum aircraft will do a fly over the Coachella Valley and the High Desert in honor to local First Responders on the Twentieth Anniversary of the 9/11 attack that claimed 2,977 lives.

The aircraft will carry flags honoring local service personnel and the Gold Star families lost as a result of the Global War on Terrorism – an ongoing international military campaign launched by the United States government following the September 11 attacks: A 2019 Brown University study places the number of direct deaths caused by the War on Terror at over 800,000 when Syria and Yemen are included. It is estimated that 6,951 service members and 7,730 U.S. contractors have lost their lives over the span of the conflict.

The names of local service members lost:

- Marine Cpl Jesus A. Gonzalez of Indio, CA, 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 29 Palms, CA – KIA April 12, 2003 in Baghdad, Iraq – Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Marine 1st Lt. Joshua M. Palmer of Banning, CA, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA – KIA April 8, 2004 in Anbar Province, Iraq – Operation Iraqi Freedom
- US Air Force Staff Sgt Jennifer Kepner, of Cathedral City, died Oct 18, 2017 from cancer as a result of exposure to Burn Pits at Camp Balad Air Base in Iraq. She served as a medic from 2001-2007 and spent 6 months at Camp Balad
- US Army Pfc Ming Sun, of Cathedral City, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO, KIA January 7, 2007, Ramadi, Iraq – Operation Iraqi Freedom
- US Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Suresh Krause, of Cathedral City, A Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, KIA August 16, 2012, Kandahar Province, Iraq, Operation Enduring Freedom
- Marine Cpl Hunter Lopez of Indio, KIA, August 26, 2021, Kabul Airport, Afghanistan

The fly over will start approximately at 9:45 am. First locale will be Palm Springs Fire Station 2, in honor of their special 9-11 Memorial Service. From there, the fleet of aircraft will include 27 local city and county fire stations in the Coachella Valley and high desert, including the 29 Palms Marine Base. The length of time in the air will be approximately 40 minutes. From Palm Springs, the aircraft will fly east over Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage (County Fire Department), Indian Wells, La Quinta, Indio, Bermuda Dunes, Thousand Palms, Morongo Valley and **San Bernardino County Fire Stations**, ending at 29 Palms.

Notable aircraft participating are the P-63 King Cobra, two P-51 Mustangs, C-47 Sky Train, and the T-6 Texan. \*

The Palm Springs Air Museum is an educational non-profit history and aviation museum, dedicated to educating future generations, honoring our veterans, and preserving our aviation history.

Open daily from 10 until 5, it is located at 745 N. Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs, CA 92262, the main phone number is 760-778-6262. Visit [PSAirMuseum.org](http://PSAirMuseum.org) for more info. The current special promotion includes free

admission for children 12 and under accompanied by a paying adult. Masks are required at this time (available on site) as per Palm Springs City Covid guidelines.

\*Aircraft and exact route are subject to mechanical issues and the weather, especially smoke from the fires.

<https://www.palmspringslife.com/events/9-11-fly-over-to-honor-first-responders-fallen-soldiers-from-palm-springs-air-museum/>

## **Dixie Fire Update: Wind-Whipped Blaze Rapidly Advances Toward Highway 395; Wall of Flames Surges Several Miles**

Staff Writer, CBS SF Bay Area

Posted: September 2, 2021

MILFORD (CBS SF) — Gusty winds whistled across the southeastern edge of the massive Dixie Fire late Wednesday, pushing the wall of flames several miles toward Highway 395 as firefighters braced to once again engage the blaze in the treacherous terrain of the escarpment.

Cal Fire Chief Don Watt, the fire behavior specialist, said the flames, fueled by winds, terrain and drought-dried vegetation, gained speed all day long.

“The big concern today was on the Highway 395 corridor, it is a very windy location that tends to stay windy longer than what we see on the northern part,” Watt said at a Wednesday night update. “So that fire made a pretty good progression today. It traveled several miles this afternoon and continues to burn actively.”

The fire, which ignited on July 14, possibly sparked by PG&E equipment, grew to 847,308 acres over the past two months and was 52% contained as of Wednesday but it continued raging to the southeast and along the northern edge in the woods and wilderness of the Lassen Volcanic National Park. It has burned at least 696 homes and ravaged the communities of Greenville and Canyondam.

Wednesday’s run brought the blaze once again to the edge of the escarpment — a rise of land stretching for miles where winds swirl and the terrain is very challenging. It’s a region that has become all too familiar to firefighters.

More than a week ago, firefighters battled the flames further north on the escarpment to successfully keep the fire out of Milford.

Miles to the south, they staged a firefight with the Beckwourth Complex fire, which was ignited by lightning strikes on July 3. Crews succeeded in totally containing the fire on Wednesday after it burned 105,670 acres and destroyed much of the town of Doyle.

“It’s almost to the escarpment now,” said Cal Fire West Operations Chief Tony Brownell. “We’ve move a lot of engines and personnel around, we are down around 395, concentrating on structure protection. So when it does come off that hill we are going to be there to catch it and keep it out of structures the best we can.”

The wall of fire approaching the escarpment began as two spots fires that merged along the then southern edge of the blaze in the Genesee Valley last week. The flames advanced along Grizzly Ridge and firefighters were able to keep it away from Quincy, Greenhorn and Cromberg.

The southern edge of the blaze was also approaching the Davis Lake area.

Along the northern edge, spot fires continued to challenge firefighters in and around the national park.

“The northeast side of the fire, that’s where it’s given us problems with the last wind event we’ve had,” Watt said. “The fire was pushing against it, trying to push it out. We had spotting issues near the Hall Road. It is spotting over the top, meaning embers are going over our control lines and causing new fires.”

<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2021/09/02/dixie-fire-update-wind-whipped-blaze-rapidly-advances-toward-highway-395-wall-of-flames-surges-several-miles/>

## As winds calm over Caldor Fire, crews focus on trouble spots

Amy Graff, SFGATE

Posted: August 30, 2021



A firefighter battles the Caldor Fire along Highway 89, Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2021, near South Lake Tahoe, Calif.

There's some good news for California's Caldor Fire that has chewed through parched forest land just southwest of Lake Tahoe for nearly three weeks. Calmer winds in coming days are expected to give firefighters the opportunity to increase containment on the blaze and target troublesome spots. What's more, homes in the more populated Christmas Valley appeared to be safe Wednesday night.

The Caldor Fire started Aug. 14 near Grizzly Flats, and crews thought they would gain an upper hand on the fire on Friday of last week. Then came a windier-than-expected weekend, when containment on the fire dropped from 19% to 13%.

The 210,259-acre fire went from being 20% contained Wednesday morning to 25% Thursday morning, Cal Fire said.

In recent days, a combination of the typical summer terrain-driven winds that blow up and down the Highway 50 corridor and strong winds aloft in the atmosphere have created the perfect recipe for fire spread.

National Weather Service meteorologist Jim Dudley said at an operations meeting Wednesday nights this will begin to change Thursday as those gusty conditions in the upper levels of the atmosphere calm.

"[On Thursday] winds will be less powerful than they were today, especially up on the ridge lines," said Dudley, noting the red flag warning expired at 11 p.m. Wednesday night. "Friday is a very light wind day across the entire fire."

He added, "The good news is we don't have the winds aloft coming in combining with those [terrain-driven winds] to create those erratic winds on the top side of the fire."

The gentler winds will allow crews to gain the upper hand on some of the fire's problematic spots.

Cal Fire spokesperson Ryan Luben hired those at Wednesday night's operations meeting, which can be viewed on Facebook.

The section of the fire near Pollock Pines and Highway 50 remains a "troublesome spot," Luben said.

If you look out to the east right now, you'll see a dominant column of smoke out there right now," he said. "There's about 1,000 acres that was unburned in here, and that's what's consuming as we speak."

The fire has also "come back to life" near Wrights Lake, and heavy tankers dropped retardant over this area Wednesday. "One of our big fears is there's a potential for an easterly wind moving in later this weekend," Luben said. "We don't want this fire to spread to the west."

Fire crews jumped into boats Wednesday to save cabins around Lower Echo Lake.

Moving to the west on Highway 50 into Christmas Valley and South Lake Tahoe, Luben said there is "heavy resource commitment" to protect this more populated area.

"Right now, the fire has skirted across the north side of Christmas Valley and has pushed onto the east side of Pioneer Trail," he said. "We're actively trying to cut a doze line up to the north toward Highway 207, keeping the fire east of Pioneer Trail behind the homes right there. As of now we haven't had any structure damaged to the homes right there."

Fire crews set up a command post in the parking lot of Heavenly Mountain Resort on Wednesday and operations for the fire's east side will run out of this spot. A third to one-half of the 4,000 firefighters will work out of this new camp, KCRA reported.

<https://www.sfgate.com/california-wildfires/article/Caldor-Fire-wildfire-winds-South-Lake-Tahoe-16430534.php>