



NEWS



News Headlines 09/23/2021

- Evacuations lift as firefighters stop spread of University fire in San Bernardino
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Evacuations lift as firefighters stop spread of University fire in San Bernardino

Jonah Valdez, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: September 22, 2021



Yvette Carranza (center) speaks with neighbors as the University fire burns behind homes in San Bernardino on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021. (Photo by Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

The University fire, sparked by a vehicle with a flat tire along the 215 Freeway late Wednesday morning, Sept. 22, forced hours-long evacuations of houses and businesses, including a dialysis clinic, in San Bernardino.

The fire charred between 50 and 100 acres in the Little Mountain area before its spread was halted just after 3 p.m., said Eric Sherwin, spokesperson for **San Bernardino County fire**. Evacuation orders were lifted shortly after.

Residents along North State Street, Morgan Road, Pepperdine Drive and Grossmont Road were allowed to return by 4 p.m., county fire said.

At one point flames from the blaze threatened about 100 homes and a number of businesses leading officials to issue evacuation orders for those in the area. The fire was 50% contained by late afternoon, as it burned along slopes in the Little Mountain area, east of the 215 Freeway and University Parkway, a few miles south of the Cal State San Bernardino campus, Sherwin said.

Containment percentage is the amount of the fire area that is surrounded by a line that officials believe the flames will not jump.

The fire also threatened a strip mall on University Parkway and State Street, which included restaurants, gas stations and a dialysis clinic, Sherwin said. The mall was evacuated, including employees and 23 patients who were receiving treatments at the clinic.

One of the patients was treated for a medical issue related to the evacuation, but did not suffer any physical injuries, Sherwin said.

San Bernardino police opened a reception center for evacuees at 6707 Little League Drive, but allowed residents to return home once fire crews gained control of the blaze.

The fire started when a vehicle with a flat tire exited the northbound 215 Freeway at University Parkway, Sherwin said. As the vehicle neared the exit, the wheel's exposed rim scratched the road, sending sparks into nearby vegetation and igniting the blaze.

The driver of the vehicle stayed at the scene and cooperated with fire investigators, Sherwin said.

Around 11:30 a.m., a San Bernardino County fire crew training on the west side of the 215 Freeway spotted smoke near the Little Mountain area, Sherwin said. The crew called it in and began to move toward the smoke.

While the crew made its way there, authorities began to receive calls about a vegetation fire, Sherwin said. The crew arrived and found flames burning one to two acres on a slope.

More than 150 firefighters battled the blaze and worked containment lines, Sherwin said. Cal Fire and San Bernardino County sheriff's helicopters were conducting water drops.

An airtanker dropped fire retardant on the hills just behind the stretch of homes.

Some residents grabbed garden hoses and sprayed down their homes and the dead, yellow grass that stood downhill near where flames continued to crawl forward.

Fire crews were able to gain control of the fire before flames reached any structures. No injuries were reported in the blaze.

Temperatures reached the high 90s — 98 degrees near where the fire ignited — into triple digits in the Inland Empire on Wednesday, according to the National Weather Service. A heat advisory was issued for the region earlier Wednesday.

A separate fire ignited on the Cal State San Bernardino campus sometime after 1 p.m., on the rooftop of the school's visual arts building, fire authorities said. A county fire engine crew was able to extinguish the flames before they spread into the structure.

The cause of that blaze appeared to be related to roofing construction and was not tied to the ongoing brush fire, authorities said.

Several miles south, fire crews also battled a smaller brush fire that burned in Perris Hill Park, along Highland Avenue, county fire said. Crews were able to hold that blaze to 5 acres.

Fire crews were expected to remain in the Little Mountain area to mop up any hot spots and embers and to work toward full containment, Sherwin said.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2021/09/22/brush-fire-in-san-bernardino-forces-evacuations/>

Evacuations Lifted As Crews Get Handle On University Fire In San Bernardino

Staff Writer, CBS 2

Posted: September 22, 2021



SAN BERNARDINO (CBSLA) — Evacuations were temporarily ordered for some residents Wednesday afternoon as a brush fire burned in San Bernardino.

The fire erupted just east of the 215 Freeway near the Cal State San Bernardino campus.

By 12:39 p.m., the fire had grown to 50 acres and was 0% contained, **San Bernardino County Fire** said. As of 4:13 p.m., the fire had burned between 50 to 100 acres and was 50% contained.

About 100 homes were threatened and evacuations were temporarily ordered for residences east of N. State St., south of and including residences on Morgan Rd., west of and including Pepperdine Dr., south to Grossmont Rd.

By 4:13 p.m., the forward rate of spread had been stopped and all evacuations were lifted.

#UniversityFire: (Update) DC113 is Highland IC & reporting acres 25 acres, rapid rate of spread. Crews continue to work on perimeter control. @CALFIREBDU San Manuel FD & @coltonfiredept assisting. pic.twitter.com/rYu4U7mkQv

— San Bernardino County Fire (@SBCOUNTYFIRE) September 22, 2021

An evacuation center was opened for evacuees at 6707 Little League Drive.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department- Aviation Unit was performing water drops.

Cal Fire San Bernardino and the Colton Fire Department were assisting SBCF.

SBCF said the fire initially threatened a dialysis center. "Thanks to an emergency plan that was clearly practiced by the staff, all 23 patients were safely and successfully evacuated," SBCF said

At 1:28 p.m., San Bernardino County Fire said firefighters were making good progress with air and ground attacks.

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2021/09/22/university-fire-san-bernardino/>

University Fire in San Bernardino 50% contained; evacuations lifted

Cindy Von Quednow, Chip Yost, KTLA

Posted: September 22, 2021



A brush fire that has charred 50 to 100 acres in San Bernardino and prompted evacuation orders near the 215 and 210 freeways is 50% contained, officials said.

The University Fire was reported just after noon near the University Parkway exit of the 215 Freeway, San Bernardino County Fire Department officials said.

By 2:50 p.m., firefighters appeared to be gaining the upper hand on the blaze, with its forward rate of spread “slowed,” the Fire Department tweeted.

About 100 homes remain threatened. Evacuation orders were in place for homes east of North State Street, south of and including residences on Morgan Road, west of and including Pepperdine Drive and south to Grossmont Road. The orders were lifted about 4:15 p.m.

A reception center was set up for evacuees at 6707 Little League Drive.

The blaze at one point threatened a dialysis center, but all 23 patients were able to get out of the building safely, officials said.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department aviation unit was been conducting water drops on the fire. Light to medium brush was burning in the steep terrain above homes in the area, aerial video from Sky5 showed.

CalFire, as well as the San Manuel and Colton fire departments, were assisting in the blaze.

#UniversityFire (Final): University IC advising forward rate of spread has been stopped. Containment sits around 50%. All EVACUATIONS have been LIFTED. Crews will continue to mop up and increase containment lines this evening. Thanks to all our cooperators who assisted today pic.twitter.com/rJRASo0euS — San Bernardino County Fire (@SBCOUNTYFIRE) September 22, 2021

#UniversityFire (Update): Fire at 50 acres and 0% containment. @SBCSDAviation performing water drops. — San Bernardino County Fire (@SBCOUNTYFIRE) September 22, 2021

#UniversityFire (Update): EVACUATION ORDER for residences east of N State St south of and including residences on Morgan Rd west of and including Pepperdine Dr south to Grossmont Rd. Structure defense in place. ^eas — San Bernardino County Fire (@SBCOUNTYFIRE) September 22, 2021

<https://ktla.com/news/local-news/university-fire-in-san-bernardino-burns-50-acres-prompts-evacuations/>

Fires burn as triple-digit temperatures heat up Southern California

Jonah Valdez, San Gabriel Valley Tribune

Posted: September 22, 2021



An aircraft makes a retardant drop directly behind homes on Yardley Street during the University fire in San Bernardino on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021. (Photo by Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

The dry heat on Wednesday — the first day of fall — prompted heat advisories and set the stage for a host of fires that sprouted across Southern California.

And as temperatures climbed, so did the number of fire emergencies.

First came a small brush fire around 11 a.m., burning near baseball fields and several schools at Perris Hill Park in San Bernardino, said the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**. Fire crews were able to hold the blaze to five acres. Temperature: 93 degrees.

Around 11:30 p.m., just two miles north, sparks from a vehicle with a flat tire landed in some vegetation, igniting the University fire, which forced residents of more than 100 San Bernardino homes and businesses to flee the oncoming flames, authorities said. Temperature: 94 degrees.

Over the next several hours, the fire grew from two acres to 100 acres with flames creeping closer toward the foothill neighborhood, county fire officials said. Some flames leapt just behind some houses as their owners pointed garden hoses into the dry, yellow grass. Temperature: 97 degrees.

Around 1 p.m., another fire sparked on a rooftop of a California State University, San Bernardino building. The blaze ignited as roofers worked atop the campus' visual arts building. A fire engine crew extinguished the fire before flames entered the structure. Temperature: 98 degrees.

East into Riverside County in San Jacinto, a pile of cardboard boxes caught fire at a commercial intersection in the city, said April Newman, spokesperson for the Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Department. The temperature had reached 99 degrees around the time of the small trash fire. The cause of the blaze was still under investigation.

Elsewhere in the region, in Los Angeles County, National Weather Service officials warned of elevated fire conditions in areas with high temperatures and gusty winds like the San Fernando, Santa Clarita and San Gabriel valleys.

Just before 4 p.m. in the San Fernando Valley, where temperatures had reached 101 degrees and winds gusted at 20 mph, a brush fire broke out in a grassy hills near Chatsworth Park South, said the Los Angeles Fire Department. The blaze would go on to burn nine acres.

Weather was far less intense in the region's coastal areas in Orange and Los Angeles counties. But temperatures remained finicky: on the beachfront, people felt 70-degree weather; move just one mile inland, temperatures spiked into the 80s.

The hottest city in the region was Palm Springs, which saw temperatures rise to 108 degrees in the afternoon. No temperature records were broken in the region.

As temperatures dipped to the lower 90s in San Bernardino late Wednesday afternoon, fire crews were able to gain control of the University fire, allowing residents to return to their homes.

While most fires were expected to be snuffed out by Wednesday evening, the heat was expected to stick around on Thursday. However, a weather system blowing in from Idaho will bring slight cooling into the weekend, said Philip Gonsalves, meteorologist with the National Weather Services' San Diego office.

Real respite from the heat isn't expected to arrive until early next week, when a weather system from Alaska blows in, down along the West Coast, Gonsalves said.

By the middle of next week, even the hottest areas of the region aren't forecast to see temperatures beyond 80 degrees, he said.

<https://www.dailynews.com/2021/09/22/fires-burn-as-triple-digit-temperatures-heat-up-southern-california/>

San Bernardino fire spreads to at least 50 acres; evacuations lifted

Rob McMillan, ABC 7

Posted: September 22, 2021



All evacuation orders have been lifted from the brush fire burning near the 215 freeway in San Bernardino.

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (KABC) -- A brush fire erupted Wednesday afternoon in San Bernardino, prompting officials to issue an evacuation order for a neighborhood near the 215 Freeway.

The so-called University Fire was reported shortly before 11:30 a.m. near North University Parkway and the northbound side of the 215, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Firefighters from that agency responded to the scene, as did personnel from Cal Fire and the Colton Fire Department.

"At the start, the fire threatened a dialysis center," the San Bernardino Fire Department said in a tweet. "Thanks to an emergency plan that was clearly practiced by the staff, all 23 patients were safely and successfully evacuated."

Firefighters raced to defend structures in the area amid temperatures that were reaching into the high 90s.

Just after 12:30 p.m., an evacuation order was issued for residences located east of North State Street, south of and including Morgan Road, west of and including Pepperdine Drive south to Grossmont Road. All evacuation orders were lifted just after 4 p.m.

#UniversityFire (Update): EVACUATION ORDER for residences east of N State St south of and including residences on Morgan Rd west of and including Pepperdine Dr south to Grossmont Rd. Structure defense in place. ^eas — San Bernardino County Fire (@SBCOUNTYFIRE) September 22, 2021

No injuries or structural damages were immediately reported. San Bernardino County Fire said the fire was 50% contained.

The cause is still under investigation, but crews say it may have been started by a car fire.

<https://abc7.com/san-bernardino-fire-burns-50-acres-near-215-fwy-prompting-evacuations/11038537/>