



NEWS



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Vegetation fire which burned 71 acres in San Bernardino is extinguished

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: September 23, 2021



A vegetation fire burned 71 and then threatened homes and businesses in the area of Interstate 215 and University Avenue in San Bernardino. (Contributed photo by San Bernardino County Fire Department)

A vegetation fire which burned 71 acres and threatened homes and businesses in the area of Interstate 215 and University Avenue in San Bernardino has been completely extinguished, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** said in a news release on Sept. 23.

There were no reports of injuries.

The cause of the fire was determined to be a flat tire, said Battalion Chief Mike McClintock. Sparks and pieces of the vehicle's rim ignited dry vegetation while traveling westbound on the University offramp. The car's driver remained on-scene after the incident.

The University Fire began on the morning of Sept. 22. Crews arrived to find 2-3 acres of light fuels already burning and spreading up "Little Mountain." Firefighters initiated a fire attack, working to control the fire and keep it from spreading to nearby businesses.

The blaze quickly grew in a northeasterly direction toward homes. Additional personnel and equipment were immediately requested, including rotor and fixed wing aircraft.

By early afternoon, the fire had grown to more than 50 acres and threatened more than 100 homes.

The San Bernardino Police Department assisted with evacuations and road closures. Arriving fire crews provided for structure defense and perimeter control, working to keep the fire from damaging the homes at the bottom of Little Mountain.

Aircraft, bulldozers and firefighters were able to stop the forward spread of the fire by 5 p.m. Despite temperatures close to 100 degrees, firefighters were successful in keeping the fire from damaging or destroying any homes or commercial buildings. Personnel remained on-scene through the evening and night working on containment lines and mop-up. Containment had reached 75 percent by nightfall, and mop-up concluded the following day.

At the height of the incident, more than 150 firefighters worked to control the fast-moving fire.

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

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/vegetation-fire-which-burned-71-acres-in-san-bernardino-is-extinguished/article_9ec81c0e-1cc8-11ec-aed0-db78e913efbf.html

Smoke in Pass Area, Redlands Coming From Central, NorCal Fires

Toni McAllister, Patch

Posted: September 23, 2021



Drift smoke in the Pass Area on Thursday. (Renee Schiavone/Patch)

BEAUMONT, CA — Fire officials in Riverside and San Bernardino counties are advising residents that smoke wafting across the region is coming from fires burning hundreds of miles away.

"There is smoke looking towards mountains in San Bernardino, we have no active fires. This is likely drift smoke from the central/ Northern California fires," Cal Fire/**San Bernardino County Fire Department** tweeted out around 12:30 p.m. Thursday.

About 30 minutes later, Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Department tweeted, "Drift smoke from fires in Central/Northern California is visible in Riverside County also."

Cal Fire provided a grim statewide update Thursday morning.

"Today, more than 9,300 personnel remain assigned to 10 active large wildfires. To date, more than 2.35 million acres have burned statewide," the agency reported.

Get the latest on these incidents at <https://fire.ca.gov/incidents>.

The most recent nearby wildland blaze broke out late Wednesday morning in San Bernardino County. The University fire was sparked by a vehicle along the 215 Freeway and charred between 50 and 100 acres in the Little Mountain area before its spread was halted just after 3 p.m.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District, which has jurisdiction in western Riverside County and into the Coachella Valley, issued a smoke advisory Thursday afternoon.

The agency explained that smoke is present in the upper atmosphere across the region, and impacts on surface air quality are expected in the San Bernardino, San Gabriel, and San Jacinto mountains as well as the Coachella Valley. The "air quality index" may reach unhealthy levels or higher from Thursday afternoon until Friday afternoon, according to the agency.

To view current air quality conditions by region in an interactive map, see <http://www.aqmd.gov/aqimap>.

Air quality forecasts are available at <http://www.aqmd.gov/forecast>.

<https://patch.com/california/banning-beaumont/smoke-pass-area-redlands-coming-central-norcal-fires>

Smoke from Sequoia wildfires rolls into Mojave Desert

Staff writer, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: September 23, 2021



The Windy Fire burns in the Sequoia National Forest. The fire, sparked by lightning on Sept. 9, is sending smoke into the Morongo Basin.

MORONGO BASIN — Smoke from wildfires burning in forests far north of the Hi-Desert has pushed into the desert over the last week, affecting the air quality.

The air in much of the Morongo Basin smelled smoky and looked hazy Monday morning. Battalion Chief Mike McClintock with **San Bernardino County fire** said there were no fires nearby.

“The smoke we are smelling and seeing are from other fires in the state, mostly in central and northern California,” McClintock said.

More smoke trundled in along with storm clouds Thursday, casting parts of the desert in an eerie orange light. The culprit was again fires up north.

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District warned the air quality could be poor through Friday due to wildfire smoke.

The smoke was present Thursday morning but was so high it wasn’t affecting the air Morongo Basin residents were breathing.

“Now our monitors are showing it so that means it’s affecting our health,” Orr said Thursday afternoon.

“The timing of the smoke reaching our area depends on several variables, including the typical onshore winds that can’t make it over the Sierra Nevada and get pushed around their southern tip, driving them into the Mojave Desert Air Basin, along with the smoke,” Orr explained.

“The sky’s color can also depend on many things, such as which particulate or pollutant is most prevalent in the wildfire smoke at the time.”

Orr said in a news release that the KNP Complex and Windy fires were producing significant amounts of the smoke that’s pushing south.

Air monitors began showing a measurable increase in PM2.5 — the pollutant found in wildfire smoke, according to the air quality district.

Levels of PM2.5 may continue to increase depending on fire containment and shifting winds.

The Windy and KNP Complex were both started by lightning on Sept. 9 and are burning around Sequoia National Park.

The Windy Fire has affected several giant sequoia groves. It is burning timber, brush and grass in steep, inaccessible areas, according to the Forest Service.

By Thursday afternoon, it had burned 68 square miles and was 6% contained.

The KNP Complex was not discovered until Sept. 11. It continues to grow in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and has spread northeast into the Sequoia National Forest.

It had burned nearly 47 square miles by Thursday afternoon.

Increasing levels of smoke can affect everyone, but it's particularly unhealthy for people with heart and respiratory illnesses, children, seniors and active adults, according to the Mojave Desert air quality district.

"The golden rule is if you smell smoke, you're breathing smoke, and you should take the necessary steps to protect yourself and your loved ones," Orr said.

In any area affected by poor air quality including smoke:

- Everyone should consider avoiding any vigorous outdoor or indoor exertion.
- People with respiratory or heart disease, older adults and children should consider remaining indoors.
- Keep windows and doors closed.
- Run your air conditioner if you have one — recirculation function is ideal.
- Avoid using a swamp cooler or whole-house fan to prevent bringing outdoor pollutants inside.

MDAQMD encourages residents to check local air quality levels by visiting www.AirNow.gov. Sign up for text and email air quality forecasts at www.enviroflash.info.

<https://hidesertstar.com/news/180760/smoke-from-sequoia-wildfires-rolls-into-mojave-desert/>

University Fire contained

Hector Hernandez Jr., Highland Community News

Posted: September 23, 2021



Photo courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire

On Wednesday, Sept. 22, firefighters contained a brush fire near Interstate 215 and University Parkway in San Bernardino.

The Fire was first reported after 1 p.m. and it threatened many structures, with **San Bernardino County Fire** issuing a evacuation order for approximately 100 residences east of N. State Street.

Fire crews had contained the fire's spread and lifted the evacuation orders by 4 p.m.

County Fire website reports that the fire burned between 50 and 100 acres.

Thirty fire engine, eight chief officers, four hand crews, 150 firefighters and two dozers responded to the fire.

https://www.highlandnews.net/news/public_safety/university-fire-contained/article_3d123bb8-1cbc-11ec-b1e3-2370c3efe18d.html