



NEWS



News Headlines 03/17/2022

- Heritage Fire in Oro Grande 75% contained, evacuations lifted, power restored
- Heritage Fire in Oro Grande holding at 500 acres and is now 73% contained

Heritage Fire in Oro Grande 75% contained, evacuations lifted, power restored

By Rene Ray De La Cruz Charlie McGee Martin Estacio, VICTORVILLE DAILY PRESS

Posted: March 16, 2022



A firefighter crew puts in a containment line on the Heritage Fire in Oro Grande on Tuesday, March 15, 2022. Martin Estacio/The Daily Press

Firefighters made significant gains against an Oro Grande vegetation fire overnight Tuesday, containing nearly three-quarters of the 500-acre fire by Wednesday morning and allowing residents in the Mojave River area to return home after two days.

The blaze, dubbed the Heritage Fire, began around midday Monday in the 14700 block of Heritage Way, west of National Trails Highway, according to **San Bernardino County Fire**. It had grown to about 350 acres by 10 p.m. Monday night, then 500 acres by Tuesday morning, SBC Fire spokesperson Eric Sherwin previously said. A far rosier picture in the battle came Wednesday.

Firefighters had contained nearly 75% of the Heritage Fire as of about 10 a.m. Wednesday, SBC Fire said in an update on Twitter, far greater than the 10% containment it had previously reported through the first two days. The flames hadn't grown for more than 24 hours and remained at 500 acres.

"With power restored, all evacuation advisories have been lifted," the department said, adding that some roads may still be blocked by fire equipment. The cause of the fire is under investigation, Sherwin said.

Southern California Edison had imposed an unplanned blackout in the northern area of unincorporated Oro Grande around 1:30 p.m. Monday due to a need for repairs, according to the utility's website, which listed "fire" as the cause. Utility workers were on the scene as of 6 p.m. Monday, but the blackout lasted longer than a day with no estimate from Edison as to when it would end. It said 16 customers were affected Monday, then lowered that count Tuesday afternoon to seven.

The blackout had ended early Wednesday morning, however, as firefighters took hold of the fire and enabled other aspects of the recovery to begin. Voluntary evacuations that were imposed through the first two days ended Wednesday for about a dozen properties south of Melrose Avenue to Roy Rogers Drive, between Bryman Road and the Mojave River bottom. The fire had burned actively with shifting winds through Monday night and into Tuesday, behavior that was "atypical for this time of year," according to Sherwin.

"Typically up here in the desert, our fires lay down at night," he said Tuesday. "We didn't see that last night."

The blaze crossed Victorville's city limits overnight Tuesday but didn't directly threaten residents, according to SBC Fire. The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District issued a smoke advisory for the Helendale/Silver Lakes area and communities nearby on Tuesday. The advisory included Barstow, where a notable haziness and smokey stench persisted outside Tuesday morning but cleared up as the day went on.

District officials said sensors "were showing increasing levels of PM10 and PM2.5, the pollutant found in wildfire smoke, in the ambient air."

Over the course of the fire, more than 100 personnel, 22 fire engines, helicopters and two strike teams were fighting the blaze. Multiple engines, equipment and hand crews responded from several fire departments, including Apple Valley, Chino Valley, Fort Irwin, Loma Linda, Rancho Cucamonga and Rialto.

<https://www.vvdailynews.com/story/news/2022/03/16/oro-grande-heritage-fire-monday-buildings-threatened-no-evacuation/7054566001/>

Heritage Fire in Oro Grande holding at 500 acres and is now 73% contained

By Staff Writer, VICTOR VALLEY NEWS GROUP

Posted: March 16, 2022



ORO GRANDE, Calif. (VVNG.com) –The Heritage Fire in Oro Grande is holding at 500 acres and is now 73% contained.

On March 16, 2022, **San Bernardino County** Fire tweeted an update and said that as of 9:00 am, there has been no growth over the past 24 hours.

Firefighters will focus today on improving and extending containment lines, mopping up the interior, and patrolling for hot spots. Fresh units arrived this morning and will focus on reinforcing and extending containment lines, mopping up the interior, and patrolling for hot spots.

Fire activity remains low with creeping/smoldering ground fire and occasional smoke from the interior of the burn. Additionally, since power was restored all evacuation advisories have been lifted. Residents are advised that hose lines and fire equipment may still continue to block some roadways. Many trees within the Mojave river bottom sustained heavy damage and may fall with little to no warning. This hazard will remain a continual presence.

On Tuesday afternoon County Fire and the Victorville City Fire entered a unified command due to the perimeter of the fire. “While the fire line did cross the city limits overnight, it presents NO threat to the residents of Victorville,” stated a County Fire tweet.

At 08:00 this morning, the unified command was dissolved, and the incident returned to the singular command of **San Bernardino County Fire**. No injuries to civilians or firefighters have been reported. The cause of the fire remains under investigation by the County Fire’s Office of the Fire Marshal.

<https://www.vvng.com/heritage-fire-in-oro-grande-holding-at-500-acres-and-is-now-73-contained/>