



NEWS



News Headlines 09/03-06/2022

- Radford fire explodes to 330 acres, evacuations in place near Big Bear; Aircraft and ground crews are working the fire with more units en route, officials said Monday
- Flex Alert continues through Labor Day evening as Southern California bakes
- Radford Fire near Big Bear Lake grows to nearly 333 acres; evacuation orders issued
- 2 people were killed and multiple structures destroyed after a fast-moving wildfire erupted in Southern California

Radford fire explodes to 330 acres, evacuations in place near Big Bear; Aircraft and ground crews are working the fire with more units en route, officials said Monday

Jeff Horseman, THE PRESS ENTERPRISE

PUBLISHED: September 5, 2022 at 2:54 p.m. | UPDATED: September 6, 2022 at 12:10 a.m.



The Radford fire ignited Monday afternoon, Sept. 5, in the San Bernardino National Forest near south of Big Bear Lake. The blaze shut down Highway 38 in both directions from Mill Creek to Lakewood. (Photo courtesy of Caltrans)

Residents near Big Bear were forced to evacuate as the Radford fire grew to 330 acres with no containment Monday, Sept. 5, and shut down traffic on Highway 38 in both directions.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department issued an evacuation order for residents in the area of Glass Road to South Fork River Road, Yucaipa police announced on Twitter just before 6:30 p.m.

Highway 38 was closed from Mill Creek Road to Lakewood Road, according to Caltrans, as fire crews worked the fire lines.

The Radford fire was first reported after 1 p.m. south of Big Bear Lake.

About 140 firefighters are assigned to the blaze, according to the U.S. Forest Service. Inland fire resources are divided between the Radford Fire and the Fairview fire near Hemet, which exploded Monday afternoon to hundreds of acres and forced evacuations.

Firefighters were battling the blaze from the air and ground, **San Bernardino County fire** tweeted.

Temperatures in the region soared again Monday as California declared a power grid emergency and a sustained heat wave threatened to push the state's electricity system beyond its limit.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2022/09/05/radford-fire-breaks-out-in-san-bernardino-national-forest/>

Flex Alert continues through Labor Day evening as Southern California bakes

Quinn Wilson, SBSUN.COM

PUBLISHED: September 4, 2022 at 9:59 a.m. | UPDATED: September 5, 2022 at 11:41 a.m.



People flocked to the coastline on Sunday to get away from the heat wave that is hitting the region. The Point Vicente Interpretive Center was listed an official Cooling Center and became an unofficial spot for many who took to the shade trees and cool ocean breezes September 4, 2022. (Photo by Chuck Bennett, Contributing Photographer)

Searing, triple-digit heat continued to smash high temperature records throughout Southern California on Sunday, Sept. 4, as a sixth consecutive energy-saving Flex Alert was announced for Labor Day, Sept. 5.

Sunday started out warm — it was already 96 degrees at John Wayne Airport as of 9:18 a.m. But it felt like 103 degrees, the National Weather Service said in a tweet. The normal temperature would be 81 degrees.

This “anomalous” morning heat spell was confined mostly to the coast, moving from San Diego County into Orange County around sunrise, the NWS said. By the afternoon, a southerly wind had cooled the coast by five to 10 degrees, meteorologists said.

In Long Beach, meanwhile, a high of 109 degrees broke the old record of 107 in 1988, the NWS said.

As the region heated up in the afternoon, Newport Beach broke its all-time high temperature record of 96 from 1965 by a degree, according to the NWS. Its daily high record was smashed by seven degrees, meteorologists said.

Anaheim broke its daily high record by a degree when thermometers topped out at 107 degrees, the NWS said.

A variety of daily record highs were tied, with both Santa Ana and San Jacinto topping out at 108 degrees, according to the NWS. A record daily high of 110 degrees was tied at the Burbank Airport, the NWS reported.

Excessive heat warnings remain in effect until at least 8 p.m. Tuesday for the mountains and the Santa Clarita, San Fernando and San Gabriel valleys, along with the inland coastal area, including downtown Los Angeles.

The warning in the Antelope Valley will last until 9 p.m. Wednesday, with temperatures anticipated up to 113 degrees.

Forecasters also warned of possible monsoonal thunderstorms Sunday across the mountains, deserts and portions of the valleys. Potential threats include heavy downpours with localized flooding, strong wind gusts over 50 mph, hail, and frequent lightning.

A little less than half an inch of rain had fallen Sunday around Lake Arrowhead and Running Springs, according to Samantha Connolly, a meteorologist with the NWS. Lightning from that storm sparked a small fire that was confined to a tree around Running Springs, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

In Los Angeles County, mountain areas of the Angeles National Forest saw sporadic rainfall, with some spots recording as much a quarter-inch of rain in just five minutes, said Kristen Stewart, meteorologist with the NWS. In San Bernardino County, radar estimated between a quarter, to a half-inch of rainfall in the Redlands and Yucaipa area, said Elizabeth Schenk, meteorologist with the NWS.

But the rain actually helped briefly reduce temperatures by as much as 20 degrees, thanks to the storm system's downdraft winds, Stewart said. A high of 106 at San Bernardino International Airport was reduced to 95 when rainfall passed through the region, Schenk said.

On Saturday, record temperatures were recorded in Lancaster, Palmdale and Sandberg. Lancaster's 109 was one degree higher than the previous record of 108 set in 1955. Palmdale's 106 tied the record set in 1947 and in the Antelope Valley community of Sandberg, Saturday's 99 degrees broke the previous record of 97 degrees, set in 1955.

Sunday afternoon temperatures were observed at 101 in downtown Los Angeles, 111 in Pasadena, 109 in Van Nuys and 106 in Santa Clarita as of 2:45 p.m., according to the NWS.

In Orange County, excessive heat warnings are also in place through 8 p.m. Tuesday for coastal and inland areas and the Santa Ana Mountains and foothills. Forecasters said Orange County beaches will be in the upper 80s, with Santa Ana expected to reach 101 degrees, Anaheim 103 and Fullerton 104.

Overnight lows are not offering much relief either, staying in the 70s and even in the low 80s in some of the hotter areas.

"A prolonged period of very hot conditions with minimal coastal clouds is expected as high pressure aloft remains anchored over the West," according to the National Weather Service. "Triple-digit heat will be common for many valley and mountain locations through early next week. Record-breaking heat will produce a very high risk of heat illness."

"Drink plenty of fluids, stay in an air-conditioned room, stay out of the sun, and check up on relatives and neighbors," the NWS urged. "Young children and pets should never be left unattended in vehicles under any circumstances."

Forecasters also urged residents to be aware of the signs of heat stroke and to take precautions.

"Take extra precautions if you work or spend time outside," according to the NWS. "When possible reschedule strenuous activities to early morning or evening. Know the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

“Wear lightweight and loose fitting clothing when possible. To reduce risk during outdoor work, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration recommends scheduling frequent rest breaks in shaded or air conditioned environments. Anyone overcome by heat should be moved to a cool and shaded location.”

On Monday, Sept. 5, relief from the high heat was expected along the coasts, but not so much for Inland Southern California, meteorologists said. Thanks to a stagnant high-pressure system parked over the Great Basin, similar, if not higher, temperatures are expected the next few days for inland areas, Schenk said. “(The temperature outlook) is looking almost identical for tomorrow, Tuesday, Wednesday and possibly Thursday,” Schenk said.

The California Independent System Operator — which manages the state’s power grid — issued the statewide Flex Alert from 4 to 9 p.m. Sunday and again for Monday from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Residents are urged to take the following power-saving steps:

- setting thermostats to 78 degrees or higher;
- avoiding use of major appliances;
- turning off unnecessary lights; and
- avoid charging electric vehicles.

Residents are also advised to pre-cool their homes as much as possible and close blinds and drapes to keep interiors cool.

The alerts have worked thus far, with the state avoiding involuntary power cutoffs. Officials said Monday and Tuesday in particular were shaping up to be the most difficult days of the heat wave. Tuesday’s peak demand is forecast to be 50,087 megawatts, just shy of the all-time record of 50,270 set in 2006.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2022/09/04/on-5th-day-of-flex-alerts-sunday-starts-out-as-a-scorcher/>

Radford Fire near Big Bear Lake grows to nearly 333 acres; evacuation orders issued

Rene De La Cruz, VICTORVILLEDAILYPRESS.COM

Published: September 5, 2022, Updated 7:10 a.m. PT Sept. 6, 2022



Firefighters began battling the “Radford” vegetation fire, which started on Labor Day, near the Snow Summit Ski Resort south of Big Bear Lake. Photo Courtesy of The **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Update at 11:09 p.m. Monday, Sept. 5: The Radford fire was mapped at nearly 333 acres, according to authorities.

Firefighters on Labor Day began battling a vegetation fire that sparked near the Snow Summit Ski Resort south of Big Bear Lake.

Dubbed the Radford Fire, the blaze was first reported at around 1:30 p.m. on Monday north of the residential and business areas of Big Bear Lake, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Multiple-fire agencies from the ground and air began attacking the fire, which had grown to 200 acres, with 0% containment, just after 7:30 p.m., the U.S. Forest Service reported.

At 5:13 p.m. the fire was reported at 50 acres with no containment.

After sunset, flames from the fire were visible throughout the San Bernardino Valley. Firefighters will remain engaged throughout the night while sheriff’s deputies patrol evacuated areas, SBC Fire officials said.

Several High Desert residents contacted the Daily Press to report smoke drifting into the area from the Big Bear Lake area, located in the San Bernardino National Forest.

Evacuations and road closures

At about 6:20 p.m., State Route 38 was closed in both directions from Mill Creek to Lakewood roads, Caltrans reported.

Around the same time, the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department issued an evacuation order from Glass Road to South Fork River Road. The area is just north of SR-38.

On Monday evening, approximately 140 fire personnel had been assigned to the incident, with more requested.

Fairview Fire

Update at 11:04 p.m. Monday, Sept. 5: The Fairview Fire was mapped at 2,702.5 acres. Two people were killed and another was injured, according to authorities

In Riverside County, fire agencies on Monday continued to battle the Fairview Fire south of Hemet. The fire included an evacuation order.

Residents were requested to vacate south of Thornton Avenue, north of Polly Butte Road, west of Fairview Avenue and east of State Street, CalFire reported.

The blaze, which was first reported at 3:37 p.m. on Monday at Fairview Avenue and Bautista Road, had reached 500 acres and was “burning at a rapid rate of spread,” Cal Fire reported.

Just after 8 p.m., the fire was reported at 700 acres and was 5% contained.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/story/news/2022/09/05/radford-fire-near-big-bear-lake-nearly-50-acres-zero-containment/7998350001/>

2 people were killed and multiple structures destroyed after a fast-moving wildfire erupted in Southern California

Nouran Salahieh and Taylor Romine, CNN
Updated 3:12 AM ET, Tue September 6, 2022



Firefighters battling the fast-moving Fairview Fire near Hemet, California, on Monday.

(CNN)Two people were killed as a fast-moving wildfire swelled rapidly over parched vegetation in Southern California on Monday, forcing hundreds of residents to flee amid a severe heat wave that has enveloped the region.

The Fairview Fire ignited after 2 p.m. local time and quickly scorched 2,000 acres, destroying at least seven structures and damaging several more near the city of Hemet in Riverside County, according to Cal Fire. Firefighters had contained about 5% as of Monday night.

About 5,000 homes were evacuated as the fire slashed a path of destruction through the baked countryside. The blaze "was spreading very quickly, before firefighters even got on scene," according to Cal Fire Captain Richard Cordova.

Two people died in the fire, he said. Officials have yet to release information on their identities or the circumstances of their death.

Another person was taken to a hospital with serious burns to their arms, back and face, according to CNN affiliate KCBS.

The victims were in a "one way in, one way out" area of a dangerous canyon with a lot of overgrown vegetation that hasn't burned in decades, Cordova told the station.

Aerial footage showed several homes burning as flames encroached under a dense layer of smoke. Schools will be closed Tuesday in Hemet due to the fire and the possibility of power outages with anticipated high temperatures, the district said late Monday.

Daytime temperatures will be above 100 degrees Fahrenheit for at least the next three days in Hemet, according to the forecast.

The Fairview Fire was one of several wildfires wreaking havoc over the holiday weekend in California, where fires have consumed thousands of acres in less than a week.

In Northern California's Siskiyou County, two women, ages 66 and 73, died in the Mill Fire that burned 4,263 acres and destroyed 98 structures as of Monday night.

Nearby, the Mountain Fire ignited on steep terrain and was 20% contained at 11,464 acres.

Cal Fire Battalion Chief Jon Heggie told CNN on Sunday the prolonged drought conditions have created "extremely dangerous" conditions as the parched land holds "a huge amount of dead fuel."

"All these fires now have receptive fuel beds to burn," he said. "Now, when anything gets started it has that potential for exponential growth in a short period of time just because everything is so tinder dry."

An extended record-setting heatwave in the West is also making conditions more dangerous, with California sizzling under triple-digit temperatures that have heightened the risk for wildfires.

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/09/06/us/california-fairview-fire/index.html>