



POWERHOUSE FIRE

PRESS RELEASE

Monday, June 3rd, 2013 @ 8am

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The Powerhouse Fire now is in its 5th day and is continuing to burn at a moderate rate, slower than the past 4 days. Most recent mapping indicates that it is 29,584 acres. Fire crews continued to work through the night and many firefighters have been up actively engaged in fire fighting for several days.

Late yesterday, The Department of Water and Power and Southern California Edison Company began an assessment on the large power lines and transformers running through the fire region. The lines serve residents through the entire West Coast into Washington State. A redistribution of power grids and lines must be done if the fire impacts the lines. Specialists are available to achieve this so that residents are not without power and to keep the lines from endangering firefighters.

If the fire continues to move on its current path it has potential to move into an area that houses a solar farm. Every attempt is being made to keep the fire from moving into this area. Successful firefighting operations now put the fire at 40% contained. Eleven helicopters will be actively working today along with eight air tankers to keep the fire in check. Spot fires have occurred over the entire duration of the incident and are expected today due to some wind gusts up to 40 mph.

Law enforcement officers worked yesterday with residents to get them safely evacuated from the area. Fire officials are now developing a re-entry plan for evacuated residents. Marie Kerr Park in Palmdale has been set up as a shelter and housed 150 people over night. Volunteers, Red Cross, and area residents did a significant job in providing support and getting the impacted community the services they needed. Lancaster and Antelope Valley Fairgrounds were used to house animals such as horses, donkeys, goats, and exotic birds.

There are currently 2185 firefighters engaged in fire protection, mop up, overhaul, or structure protection. Commuters are asked to drive safely on their Monday morning commute and keep an eye out for fire crews. Six homes have been destroyed but firefighters have been actively working to keep the fire from damaging more structures.

Much of the perimeter of the fire is knocked down and considered "cold" in many areas although firefighters will be working on mop up. The fire has stopped moving north of the Aqueduct and is not expected to progress any further. The fire burning in Bieich Canyon is expected to continue to spread west. Fire north of Elizabeth Lake Canyon will burn up slope towards Sawmill Mountain and Sawtooth Mountain. Fire west of Lake Hughes Road will burn towards Warm Springs Road. Currently, 300 homes are threatened in the communities of Hughes Lake, Elizabeth Lakes, Green Valley.

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