

Basin Complex / Indians Fire



The Basin Complex includes three fires started from the June lightning event – the Basin, Gallery, and the Logwood, which is a single tree lightning strike. Within 24 hours the fires have burned 2000 acres posing an immediate threat to homes in Partington Ridge. Fire is expected to threaten the community of Big Sur within the next 24 hrs. Mandatory evacuations are issued from the Ventana Inn, in Big Sur south to Julia Pfeiffer Day Use Area. Five hundred residences are threatened.

By June 23 the Logwood fire merges with the Gallery fire. The Gallery fire is 6350 acres with 10% containment. The Basin fire is 2150 acres with 0% containment. Three residences and 2 outbuildings are reported destroyed, and another eleven structures are destroyed by the following morning.

Governor Schwarzenegger visits the incident on the morning of June 25. With heavy fuel loads made more flammable due to sudden oak death, the Basin Complex is expected to be long term. On June 26, the Basin and Gallery fires merge. Poor visibility caused by smoke and low clouds limit aircraft operations today. Evacuations remain in place in the Partington Ridge area.

The Basin Complex continues to burn in extremely steep and rugged terrain with continuous heavy fuel loading. Active fire behavior is limiting opportunities for containment actions. Because of the size and complexity of the incident, it is divided into two zones (West Zone and East Zone) with two incident commanders in unified command.

By July 2 the Basin Complex is 61,275 acres and 3 percent contained and over 2000 structures are threatened. In the West Zone the fire makes major runs to the south and north. A mandatory evacuation and road closure is in effect for the entire community of Big Sur and both sides of Hwy 1 from Lime Kiln State Park north to Andrew Molera State Park. The evacuation in Big Sur has displaced 1500 residents and affected 500 homes and 20 businesses. Evacuations are still in place in the Partington Ridge area. An evacuation advisory is in place for residents of the Palo Colorado Canyon area. The East Zone reports ongoing preparations for structure protection in the Cachagua areas.

On July 4, the fire continues to be very active on the northwest and south flanks, threatening the communities of BIG SUR, CARMEL and LUCIA. Fire has jumped the southern containment line and crews are attempting to hold a secondary dozer line with limited resources.

The Indians Fire starts on Sunday June 8 in the Ventana Wilderness, northwest of Fort Hunter Liggett. The fire is very active with extreme fire behavior and spotting. By June 11, it has burned approximately 10,800 acres with 13 percent containment. One residence is destroyed and one residence damaged. Twenty residences remain threatened, forcing the evacuations of Forest Service summer cabins in the Santa Lucia Tract. A portion of Los Padres National Forest in Monterey County is closed.

As the fire actively spreads primarily to north and east, another residence and 13 outbuildings destroyed are destroyed. More than 1300 structures are threatened. Due to extended travel times, a spike camp, for 200 to 300 personnel, is established at Greenfield High School

When the lightning event of June 20th strikes Monterey County, the Indians Fire has been burning for over two weeks and is at 52,200 acres with 55 Percent containment. The incident assists the Monterey Ranger District with initial attack on two lightning fires, the Gallery Fire and the Bear Basin Fire, that eventually become the Basin Complex. A voluntary evacuation is in place for upper Pine Canyon while an evacuation advisory is in place for lower Pine Canyon and Thompson Canyon.

On June 29, the Indians incident continues firing operations in the Arroyo Seco drainage as weather conditions allow, and provides tactical and logistical support to the Basin Complex. With only 12 miles of line to build, the Indians Fire is at 60,845 acres and 89% contained.

Full containment is reported on July 10, although approximately 10,000 acres of the Indians Fire total of 81,378 acres are unburned interior islands that have not burned.

STATISTICS

Incident Number: CA-LPF-1649
 Number of Fires: 3
 Major fires: Basin and Gallery Fires
 County: Monterey
 Affected Communities: Big Sur, Carmel, Lucia, Carmel

Valley, Rodeo Flats, Partington Ridge Tanbark, Pine Valley and Chews Ridge.
 Agencies in Command: Unified command with USFS, CalFire, Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade and Monterey County Sheriffs Office

Estimated Direct Fire Suppression
 Start Report Date: 6/21/08
 Containment Date: 7/27/08
 Total Acres: 162,818 acres
 Costs: \$77,496,454
 Firefighters Assigned at Peak:
 Structures Destroyed:

26 residences, 32 outbuildings
 Structures Damaged:
 5 residences, 4 outbuildings
 Fatalities: 0
 Fuels: Chaparral
 Cause: Lightning

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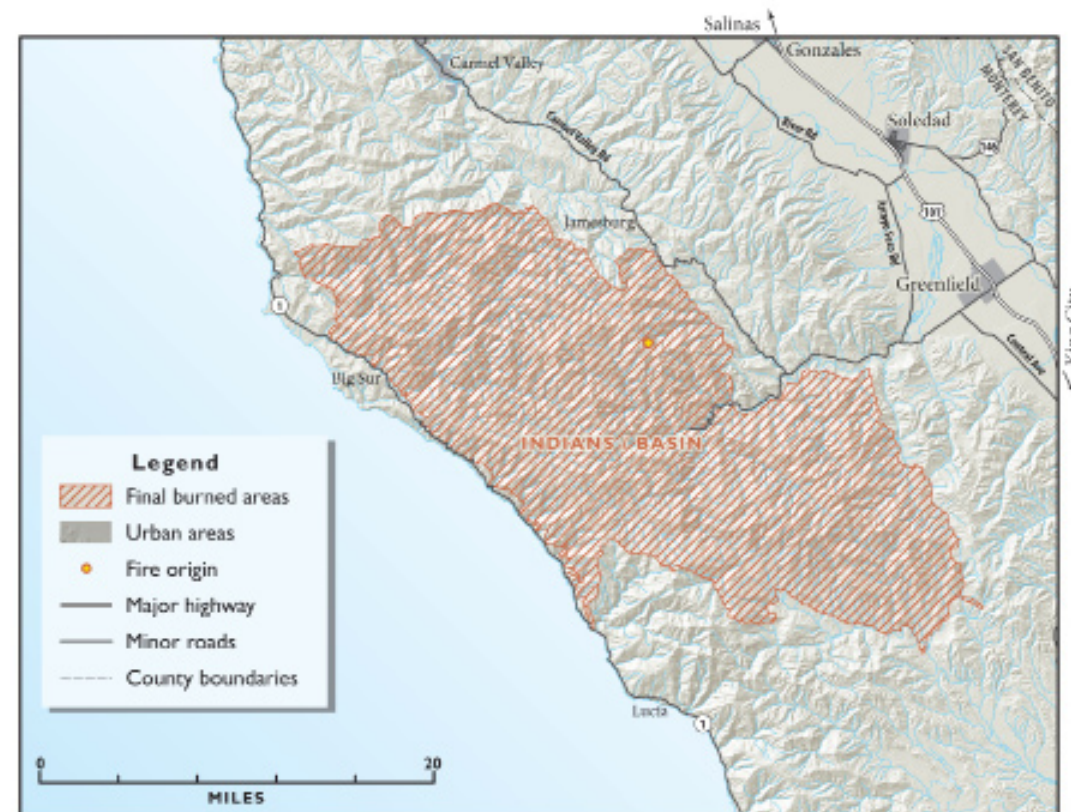
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