



**American
Red Cross**

Santa Barbara County Chapter

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JOINT INFORMATION CENTER
NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SBC-JIC Tea Fire 026
DATE: November 18 2008
TIME: 9:00 a.m.

The cause of the Tea Fire remains under investigation. If you have information about the fire, please call the Sheriff's anonymous tip hotline 805-681-4171.

Fire Status

- 1,940 acres burned
- 100% contained
- 210 residences destroyed: 130 City of Santa Barbara, 80 County of Santa Barbara; 9 residences damaged
- Damage assessment is continuing
- 319 parcels currently remain under evacuation
- 756 firefighters and support personnel
- 22 injuries from smoke inhalation
- 3 burn injuries
- Estimated firefighting cost to date \$5,700,000

Residents are advised to use caution when using Highway 154 or to use Highway 101 as an alternate route due to fire equipment moving between Live Oak Camp and the Tea Fire lines.

Damage Assessment Information

Preliminary property assessments have been completed by the City of Santa Barbara Fire Department and the Montecito Fire Department for properties affected by the Tea Fire. A list of properties believed to have been significantly damaged by the fire is available on the County and City websites:

www.countyofSB.org

or

www.santabarbaraca.gov

Property owners with questions regarding the status of their property may also call the following telephone numbers:

- County Emergency Call Center at (805) 681-5197
- SB Co. Chapter of the American Red Cross at (805) 687-1331.

The City and County building divisions are in the process of conducting more detailed damage assessment of structures in the affected area. These lists will be updated as additional information becomes available.

Due to evacuations currently in place, residents may not be able to access properties on the list at this time.

Shelter Location

- San Marcos High School at corner of Turnpike & Hollister
- 15 people at shelter

Key Phone Numbers

- Tea Fire Information Center – 805/681-5197
- Animal Hotline – 805/681-4332

Road Closure Information

- Road Closure Hotline - 805/568-3006
- www.countyofsb.org/pwd/roads/closure.htm

Evacuation Area

Effective 6:00 p.m., November 17, 2008, the Tea Fire mandatory evacuation order has been modified. The only remaining mandatory evacuation areas are:

- West Mountain Drive between El Cielito Road and Coyote Road
- Gibraltar Road north of El Cielito Road to East Camino Cielo

All other previously listed mandatory evacuation order areas are lifted and are now open to residents with government-issued identification (driver's license, ID card, etc) or a government-issued identification card along with a utility bill, mail showing physical address, etc.

The utility companies are still actively diagnosing and repairing infrastructure within the Mountain Drive and Gibraltar Road areas. Southern California Edison currently projects having this work completed by Wednesday, 11-19-08 at 6:00PM. Once power has been restored and the area is deemed safe, the public will be notified that these areas will open and residents will be allowed to return.

Barricades remain in effect at the following locations and residents may gain access with identification:

Stanwood at Mission Ridge Road
Loma Media at Los Alturas
Las Alturas at APS
Sycamore Canyon at 5 Pts

Las Alturas at Mission Ridge Road (no Conejo Road access permitted)
Rockwood Drive at El Cielito Road
El Cielito at Mount Calvary Road
Coyote Road at East Mountain Drive (south on Coyote restricted to residents only)
Chelham Way at Sycamore Canyon Road (westbound residents only on Sycamore Canyon)

Barricades with prohibited access are at the following locations:

Orizaba Lane at Stanwood Drive
Conejo Road at Las Alturas
Camino Alto at Las Alturas
Conejo Road at Stanwood Drive
El Cielito Road at Gibraltar Road (no northbound access up Gibraltar Road)
El Cielito Road at Mountain Drive (no access to Mountain Drive)
Coyote Road at East Mountain Drive (no access westbound on Mountain Drive)

We currently have enough Information Center volunteers. Thank you for your generous support.

For more information:

Tea Fire Info Center: (805) 681-5197
Knight Broadcasting: KUHL-1410; KINF-1440 (Both AM)
KRAZ-105.9 and KSYV-96.7 (Both FM)
Rincon Broadcasting: KTMS-990 AM
KTYD-99.9
KSBL-101.7 (All FM)
Plus Rincon's Spanish language FM stations KSPE-94.5 and KIST-107.7
UCSB: KCSB-91.9 FM
News-Press Radio: KZSB 1290 AM

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