

ZACA FIRE --- Chronology of Events

July 4 through September 4, 2007

Compiled by the Zaca Fire Information Center staff, Los Padres National Forest,
from published fire updates and Incident Status Summaries

July 4, 2007...Wednesday

The Zaca Fire is reported at 10:53 a.m. The Santa Barbara County Fire Department establishes a Unified Command with CAL FIRE and the U.S. Forest Service. Fire crews experience extreme fire behavior with spotting and significant runs in steep, rocky and broken terrain. The fire spreads north to northeast to Bee Rock Creek and Wild Horse Canyon. The cause of the fire is under investigation and there is no estimate for containment. **690 acres; 201 personnel.**

July 5, 2007...Thursday

Significant fire activity occurs late in the afternoon to the east. At 5:30 p.m., the fire is confirmed to have burned into Los Padres National Forest. Approximately 600 acres of forest land has burned. CAL FIRE Incident Management Team 9 (Windsor) assumes command at 6 p.m. **1500 acres; 30% contained; 965 personnel.**

July 6, 2007...Friday

The fire has burned into very rugged inaccessible terrain. Fire behavior is described as “fuels driven.” The San Rafael Wilderness is threatened. Control efforts are focused on containing the fire south of the Sisquoc River, west of the San Rafael Wilderness, and north of Zaca Lake Road. Handline built on the San Rafael Ridge has held the fire from moving to the south. There is difficulty on the east side due to few opportunities for containment lines. Direct attack continues on the western flank. The fire moves toward the Sisquoc River on the north flank. Crews experience high heat and low humidity. Fire investigators from Santa Barbara County Fire Department and CAL FIRE determine the cause of the Zaca Fire: sparks from grinding equipment on private property. **4600 acres; 30% contained; 1263 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$2.2 million.**

July 7, 2007...Saturday

At 7:00 a.m., the fire is estimated at 6300 acres with 15% containment. Weather is persistently hot and dry. Fuel moisture levels are extremely low at levels typically seen later in the summer. The fire is burning in steep, rocky and broken terrain. Control of the eastern flank remains difficult and the San Rafael Wilderness is still significantly threatened. Santa Barbara County fire officials order road closures and Los Padres National Forest officials order a partial forest closure which includes the Figueroa Mountain Recreation Area, South Fork of La Brea area, and portions of the San Rafael Wilderness. All non-residents have been asked to leave. **7500 acres; 15% contained; 1537 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$2.8 million.**

July 8, 2007...Sunday

Control of the east flank remains difficult. The fireline on the west and south flank continues to hold. At 4:07 p.m., a contract helicopter is involved in an accident while lifting off from the helibase off Figueroa Mountain Road. The two pilots are transported to a local hospital by ground ambulance treatment of their

injuries which are believed to be minor. A Joint Accident Investigation Team is en route to the incident. The helibase is closed temporarily and a safety stand down grounds all fixed wing and rotor wing aircraft until Monday morning. **6500 acres; 30% contained; 1757 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$5.9 million.**

July 9, 2007...Monday

The restrictions on air operations are lifted and the Figueroa helibase is reopened. The fire has destroyed an outbuilding on private land within the national forest. The fire continues to spread to the east and northeast and crosses Manzana Creek heading towards Hurricane Deck in the San Rafael Wilderness. The north flank continues to back down to the Sisquoc River. The south side of the fire continues to be successfully held along Zaca Ridge. **9500 acres; 30% contained; 1756 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$6.7 million.**

July 10, 2007...Tuesday

Six bulldozers build line on San Rafael Ridge to Santa Cruz Peak as a primary holding line in case the fire continues to move east. Twelve bulldozers construct secondary lines along the northwest side of the fire as a contingency to protect the community of Tepusquet if the fire jumps the Sisquoc River. Firefighters continue to hold the fire on the south side of the Sisquoc River east of School House Canyon, and north of Zaca Ridge. **10,000 acres; 37% contained; 1756 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$7.8 million.**

July 11, 2007...Wednesday

The fire has potential for increased growth and extended suppression activities. The entire San Rafael Wilderness and adjacent national forest lands from Hwy 166 to Buckhorn Road are included in an expanded forest closure. **11,900 acres; 37% contained; 1756 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$9.5 million.**

July 12, 2007...Thursday

The fire continues to burn in steep, rocky and broken terrain. Burning operations are successful and may continue if weather permits. **13,200 acres; 37% contained; 2060 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$11.4 million.**

July 13, 2007...Friday

The northeast portion of the fire holds at the Hurricane Deck Trail. A successful burn out operation south of the Sisquoc River near the Manzana Creek is conducted in the afternoon. Additional burning operations may take place Saturday on the northwest flank of the fire. **16,600 acres; 37% contained; 2,131 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$13.4 million.**

July 14, 2007...Saturday

The fire continues to move in an easterly direction in the San Rafael Wilderness. The burning operations continue to along the northwest portion of the fire. **17,100 acres; 45% contained; 2,020 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$15.1 million.**

July 15, 2007...Sunday

The fire continues burning in an easterly direction in the San Rafael Wilderness. The northeast portion of the fire is still holding in the Hurricane Deck Trail. The fire makes a run in the southern portion in the Sulphur Springs Canyon. Firefighters completed a successful burnout operation in the northwest portion of the fire and tie the line into the Sisquoc drainage. Firefighters continue to mop-up and secure this portion of the line. **19,500 acres; 46% contained; 2,053 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$16.6 million**

July 16, 2007...Monday

The fire continues to spread to the east in the San Rafael Wilderness and makes runs to the south towards Cachuma Saddle. With the fire at McKinley Ridge, the Santa Barbara County Sheriffs Office, in conjunction with the Incident Management Team, issue an Evacuation Order at 7:15pm for the residents of Happy Canyon Road above Baseline Road, including the communities of Tunnel Ranch, Peachtree Canyon, Rancho de los Vistadores, and Sedgwick Ranch. Residents who live in or around the identified communities are advised to immediately evacuate. An evacuation center is established at Santa Ynez High School. In addition, an Evacuation Warning is issued for the area east of Figueroa Road, North of Roblar, East of Mora, North of Baseline Avenue, and West of Lisque Canyon (Sedgwick Ranch). Residents living in these identified areas are advised to prepare for evacuation. The northeast portion of the fire is still holding at the Hurricane Deck. **25,000 acres; 35% contained; 2133 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$ 21.1 million.**

July 17, 2007...Tuesday

The fire burns actively in an easterly direction in the San Rafael Wilderness and makes runs to the south during the evening. It continues to hold on the north and west flanks. At 8:00pm the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office in conjunction with the Incident Management Team announces that the Evacuation Order remains in effect for the residents of Peachtree Canyon and areas within the LPNF boundary. The Red Cross shelter at Santa Ynez High School is closed, but the Red Cross will provide emergency housing for those affected by the evacuation order. The Evacuation Warning remains in effect for the areas east of Figueroa Road, north of Roblar, east of Mora, north of Baseline Avenue, and west of the LPNF boundary. The communities of Tunnel Ranch, Rancho de los Vistadores, and the Sedgwick Ranch are now included in the Evacuation Warning area. **28,000 acres; 35 % contained; 1,756 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$21.1 million.**

July 18, 2007...Wednesday

The fire makes a significant run to the southeast and nearly reaches McKinley Springs and San Rafael Mountain. Crews make good progress constructing and holding the line on the central portions of the northern and southern perimeters. The fire closure area is expanded to encompass all National Forest lands from Hwy 166 on the north roughly to Hwy 33 in Ventura County on the south. A contracted sanitary services truck assigned to the fire goes off Figueroa Mountain road in the afternoon and the driver is evacuated to a local hospital with injuries including a broken leg. **28,346 acres; 35% contained; 1673 personnel; estimated cost to date; \$21.6 million.**

July 19, 2007...Thursday

Evacuations are modified this afternoon as follows: "The areas within the LPNF boundary and the Peachtree community are now under an evacuation warning. The evacuation warning for all other areas has been removed." The fire makes short runs to the southeast. It is holding on the San Rafael Ridge. Hand crews are inserted on Hurricane Deck to construct hand line. The fire has progressed to McKinley Peak. Suppression tactics continue to be successful in maintaining the north and west flanks. **30,800 acres; 44% contained; 1751 personnel; estimated cost to date; 24.6 million.**

July 20, 2007...Friday

Fire behavior is moderate today. Crews make excellent progress constructing and holding line on the central portions of the northern perimeter. Favorable weather conditions permit the heavy use of aircraft on the eastern flank of the fire. The fire is established in the drainages near McKinley Peak. **30,900 acres; 48% contained; 1465 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$28.1 million.**

July 21, 2007...Saturday

Fire behavior is moderate today. Hand crews with helicopter support make significant progress in containment on the northeast, east and southeast perimeter. Rehabilitation of suppression lines is underway on the west portion of the fire. **31,000 acres; 51% contained; 1068 personnel; estimated cost to date: 29.4 million.**

July 22, 2007...Sunday

Fire behavior continues to be moderate. Hand crews and aircraft make progress containing the north and west flanks. The combination of rugged terrain, poor access and low fuel moisture continues to work against firefighting efforts. Suppression rehabilitation resources continue to work on the west portion of the fire and assess needs in remaining areas. **31,000 acres; 51% contained; 837 personnel; estimated cost to date; \$30.5 million.**

July 23, 2007...Monday

Due to the steep and rugged terrain and continuous burning in an inaccessible area in the southeast portion of the fire, the containment date is moved to August 3. Hand crews and helicopters continue work on the northeast and southeast perimeters of the fire. Suppression rehabilitation continues on the western portion of the fire and inventory work continues on the remainder of the fire area. Hot, dry weather continues to be a concern. **31,000 acres; 51% contained. 823 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$31.5 million.**

July 24, 2007...Tuesday

Weather continues to be warm and dry, and temperatures are expected to increase. The fire continues to threaten the lines, but crews are able to hold them. **31,000 acres; 65% contained; 761 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$33.5 million.**

July 25, 2007...Wednesday

The fire runs and burns actively within the containment lines. North and west flanks are in patrol status. The fire burns slowly on the south and southeast flanks. Hand crews, supported by helicopters, continue to make progress along the southeast perimeter of the fire. Weather continues to be a problem. **31,000 acres; 80% contained; 604 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$34.9 million.**

July 26, 2007...Thursday

The fire continues to threaten the lines, but firefighters keep it from spreading beyond McKinley Ridge. Hand crews and helicopters work to contain the open southeast flank and make good progress with indirect line. Direct attack on the southeast flank is unsafe and impractical due to the ruggedness of the terrain. There is a fuel change in some of the southeast flank as a result of the 1993 Marre Fire. This has helped slow the spread of the fire in those areas. **31,000 acres; 80% contained; 508 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$35.38 million.**

July 27, 2007...Friday

The forest closure is reduced. The southeast portion of the fire continues to be active. A warming and drying trend is predicted for the next few days. Suppression rehabilitation is nearly complete on the west side of the fire. **31,000 acres; 80% contained; 472 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$35.98 million.**

July 28, 2007...Saturday

In the early afternoon, the fire spots across a hand line in an uncontained portion of the southeast flank consuming approximately 600 acres. Based on the rapidly changing conditions, the Incident Management

Team orders additional resources. The active burning produces significant amounts of smoke visible throughout the Central Coast and into the San Joaquin Valley. **31,400 acres; 80% contained; 502 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$36.78 million.**

July 29, 2007...Sunday

An Evacuation Order is issued for the Peachtree Community. An Evacuation Warning is issued for Happy Canyon Road, north of Baseline Road. The fire remains along the McKinley Trail and does not get established in the Peachtree drainage. The fire burns actively toward the southeast. It gets established in the Black Canyon drainage and moves to within one mile of Mission Pine Basin. The relative humidity is expected to increase slightly during the evening, but recovery will still be poor. Daytime relative humidity will be in the single digit range. **33,500 acres; 70% contained; 502 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$37.1 million.**

July 30, 2007...Monday

The fire burns slowly on Santa Cruz Peak and is visible from Hwy 154. The fire continues to hold along the McKinley Trail where a vast amount of water and retardant drops are made. While the fire is most active in the northeast area, it has not yet reached Mission Pine Basin. Two historic cabins at Santa Cruz and Bluff Camp are wrapped for fire protection. **35,350 acres; 60% contained; 1,040 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$39.1 million.**

July 31, 2007...Tuesday

Burning continues throughout the day and the advances in an easterly direction. Smoke columns and drift smoke are visible throughout the Central Coast and in portions of the San Joaquin Valley. **37,350 acres; 60% contained; 1,344 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$40 million.**

August 1, 2007...Wednesday

The fire closure is expanded to encompass approximately 649,000 acres between Hwy 166 in northern Santa Barbara County and Hwy 33 and Matilija Canyon in Ventura County. The fire moves southward in the head of Black Canyon and eastward into Coche Creek. Islands of unburned fuel continue to burn within the fire perimeter. **37,610 acres; 65%containment; 1,402 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$41.4 million.**

August 2, 2007...Thursday

An Evacuation Order continues for the Peachtree Community. An Evacuation Warning remains in place for Happy Canyon Road north of Baseline Ave., including the ranches between Lake Cachuma and McKinley Ridge. The fire continues to move south in Black Canyon and east into Coche Creek. Dozers continue to reinforce contingency lines in the existing fuel breaks near Paradise Road. Structure protection groups are in place in the Peachtree and Paradise Road areas and continue working on improvements around structures. **38,400 acres; 70% contained; 1,449 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$42.8 million.**

August 3, 2007...Friday

An Evacuation Order is issued for the Paradise Road and Lower Santa Ynez River Road to Gibraltar Dam. The Evacuation Order includes the Paradise Road Community, Santa Ynez Recreation Area to Gibraltar Dam, Los Prietos Boys Camp and the Rancho Oso Guest Ranch. The fire makes a significant run to the southeast burning on Old Man Mountain, running down the Santa Cruz drainage, bumping up against Buckhorn Ridge and reaching Little Pine Mountain. It does not cross the contingency lines at Old Man Mountain Road. **44,000 acres; 60% contained; 1,491 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$44.8 million.**

August 4, 2007...Saturday

Evacuation Orders for both the Peachtree Community and the Paradise Road Community along with the Evacuation Warning for the Happy Canyon Road north of Baseline Road remain in effect. The fire reaches Old Man Mountain, Alexander Peak and Happy Hollow Guard Station continues to burn to the northeast and south. Due to the spread of the fire in both directions, and increasing complexity, two Type 1 National Incident Management teams and an Area Command Team are ordered. **53,500 acres; 70% contained; 2,231 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$46.9 million.**

August 5, 2007...Sunday

The fire continues to move to the northeast and east and into the Dick Smith Wilderness and Sisquoc River drainage. The fire on the south is staying near Little Pine Mountain. Fifteen strike team of engines are brought in by CALFIRE to stage at Bishop Ranch on the Santa Barbara front country. **63,350 acres; 68% contained; 2,294 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$50.3 million.**

August 6, 2007...Monday

The north and east flanks remain difficult to contain due to the west winds, fire behavior and poor access. Direct fire line is successful on the south flank of the fire. The burning operation has little progress due to higher humidity. The Bluff, Doty and Santa Cruz cabins are saved. A CALFIRE base camp is established at the Earl Warren Showgrounds. This group is currently preplanning for the Santa Barbara front communities. **71,300 acres; 68% contained; 2,370 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$54.6 million.**

August 7, 2007...Tuesday

Evacuation Orders for both the Peachtree Community and the Paradise Road Community along with the Evacuation Warning for the Happy Canyon Road north of Baseline Road remain in effect. The north and east flanks of the fire remain difficult to contain due to the west winds, fire activity and poor access. Direct fireline is successful on the south flank of the fire. The burning operation has little progress due to higher humidity. The CALFIRE base camp at Earl Warren Showgrounds continues to preplan the Santa Barbara front communities. **69,800 acres. 68% contained. 2,322 personnel. Estimated cost to date: \$52,300,000.**

August 8, 2007...Wednesday

The fire remains active on the east flank and around Indian Creek Canyon. Infrared flights show very little heat in the south flank north of Paradise Road. Firefighters improve contingency lines and structure protection in the Paradise and Camino Cielo areas. Crews continue line construction in the southeast corner Buckhorn Trail area. CALFIRE engine strike teams patrol the front country. The Evacuation Warning for Happy Canyon Road north of Baseline Road is lifted at 6:00p.m. **73,250 acres; 72% contained; 2,411 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$56.7 million.**

August 9, 2007...Thursday

Hwy 154 is reopened to general traffic with reduced speed limit. The fire remains active due to the increased temperature, lower humidity, and decreased marine layer. Extreme fire behavior is observed in Rattlesnake Canyon west of Samon Peak and Alamar Canyon. Crews build contingency lines that will be used to conduct burnout operations to secure the fire line. **76,821 acres; 70% contained; 2,482 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$58.9 million.**

August 10, 2007...Friday

The evacuation order for the Peachtree community is lifted at 6:00a.m. The fire is active due to the increased temperature, lower humidity, and decreased marine layer. The fire is established in the Indian Creek

Campground, Poplar Campground areas, Rattlesnake Canyon west of Samon Peak, and Alamar Canyon area. **80,037 acres; 68% contained; 2,567 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$61.3 million.**

August 11, 2007...Saturday

The fire continues to be active on three fronts and is generating significant smoke. Rapellers are sent to a small slopover in the Little Pine Mountain area to build direct line. The fire continues to burn actively in Rattlesnake Canyon west of Samon Peak and the Alamar Canyon area. Within the next couple of days, Incident Commanders plan to start burnout operations along many of the contingency lines. **81,795 acres; 68% contained; 2,912 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$61.5 million.**

August 12, 2007...Sunday

The Evacuation Order is downgraded to an Evacuation Warning for Paradise Road Community at 7:00p.m. Progress on the south flank enables the Incident Commander of the Live Oak Zone to postpone firing operations along Camuesa Road. CALFIRE's DC-10 airtanker makes 4 drops near the Don Victor Jeepway. Fire activity is very extreme due to low humidity (1% recorded at Ozena Station) and higher temperatures. The fire is burning in an area with no history of fire for the last 100 years. **86,063 acres; 68% contained; 2,676 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$66.5 million.**

August 13, 2007...Monday

Santa Barbara County Fire Department issues a Red Flag Alert for Santa Barbara County at 2:00p.m. The fire burns actively due to low humidity and higher temperatures. Significant smoke is generated today by unburned vegetation well inside the containment line to the west of Little Pine Mountain. Crews begin firing out operations late in the afternoon from Sweetwater Ridge toward Santa Barbara Canyon on Sierra Madre Ridge. **96,606 acres; 44% contained; 2,652 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$68.9 million.**

August 14, 2007...Tuesday

The Evacuation Order for Paradise Road, Los Prietos Boys Camp, and the Rancho Oso Guest Ranch is downgraded to an Evacuation Warning. The Santa Ynez River Road campgrounds, day use areas and trailheads remain closed. The fire is torching and running north and east of the Ogilvy Fire scar from the late 1990's. Firefighters are taking advantage of the lighter vegetation in the Ogilvy Fire area by building fireline on the east side of the Don Victor Jeepway. Weather conditions remain hot and dry. The National Weather Service "Red Flag Alert" expires at 9:00 p.m. Burnout operations are being conducted along Sierra Madre Ridge from Sweetwater Ridge to Hwy 33. Contingency lines in the areas of Paradise, Camuesa Road, the Sierra Madre Ridge, Pendola Road, and the Matilija Wilderness are nearing completion. **103,720 acres; 44% contained; 2,878 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$71.4 million.**

August 15, 2007...Wednesday

Firefighters plan a firing operation to secure the firelines on the eastern perimeter of the fire along Hwy 33. Incident Commanders are working with both Santa Barbara and Ventura County Sheriff's Offices to develop a plan for traffic flow on Hwy 33. The active fire is still burning within the indirect fire lines. On the east perimeter, the fire is actively burning in the area of the Narrows in Mono Canyon and moving east towards the Matilija Wilderness. The Evacuation Warning is still in effect for the Paradise Road, Los Prietos Boys Camp, and the Rancho Oso Guest Ranch. **116,714 acres; 67% contained; 2,890 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$73.4 million.**

August 16, 2007...Thursday

The fire has reached the Agua Caliente Canyon east of the Ogilvy Ranch and south of the Hildreth Jeep Trail. Current direct and indirect attack strategies will continue as fire managers review and reassess

contingency plans. On the northern perimeter, firefighters continued a backfire operation from Santa Barbara Canyon to Sweetwater Ridge. Firefighters backfire along Sweetwater Ridge toward Sisquoc Canyon. Contingency lines in the areas of Paradise Road, Camino Cielo Road, Camuesa Road, the Sierra Madre Ridge, Pendola Road, and the Matilija Wilderness are completed. **134,396 acres; 59% contained; 2,917 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$76.2 million.**

August 17, 2007...Friday

The fire is established in the Agua Caliente drainage but remains above the Diablo Canyon east of the Ogilvy Ranch and south of the Hildreth Jeep Trail. A five acre slopover occurs along the Monte Arido fuelbreak at Diablo Canyon and is contained using air tankers and helicopters. An Evacuation Warning is issued for East Camino Cielo Road from the junction of Gibraltar Road east to the Santa Barbara/Ventura County line and north to the Santa Ynez River, including Gibraltar and Jameson reservoirs, effective at 8 p.m. On the northern perimeter, firefighters complete 20 miles of backfiring to remove vegetation between the indirect fireline and the active portion of the fire in Sisquoc, Cliff and Sweetwater Canyons. On the east perimeter, the fire is well established in Mono Canyon west of the Matilija Wilderness. Hwy 33 between Wheeler Gorge and Ventucopa closes at 8:00 p.m. except to residents. **155,445 acres; 61% contained; 2,958 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$78.7 million.**

August 18, 2007...Saturday

A Precautionary Evacuation is issued by Ventura County Sheriff's Office, effective at 6:00 p.m., for residents along the west side of Hwy 33 from Brubaker Canyon Road junction (just south of Santa Barbara/Ventura County line) south to Pine Mountain summit. On the northern perimeter, firefighters continue to mop up and strengthen the line from Sweetwater Ridge to Santa Barbara Canyon. On the eastern perimeter, the fire is well established in Mono Canyon west of the Matilija Wilderness. A helicopter base is established at Lake Casitas in Ventura County to assist with backfiring operations on the northern and eastern front of the fire. **183,408 acres; 75% contained; 2,945 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$81.7 million.**

August 19, 2007...Sunday

Hwy 33 between Wheeler Gorge and Ventucopa is closed to all traffic except for residents who are required to show identification. On the northwest perimeter, the fire is well established in Sweetwater and Foresters Leap Canyons on the north rim of Sisquoc Canyon. On the northeast perimeter, the fire continues to be active in the Dick Smith Wilderness. On the southeast perimeter, firefighters stop firing operations along the Pendola Jeepway and in the Ogilvy Ranch area late this morning due to unfavorable wind changes. Natural resource specialists will begin to focus on the rehabilitation process in those areas affected by the fire suppression activities. There is potential for a Red Flag Alert tomorrow morning in the Santa Barbara area. **199,588 acres; 75 % contained; 3,035 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$83.2 million.**

August 20, 2007...Monday

The strategy today is to continue backfire operations from Cuyuma Peak Road in Dry Canyon toward Hwy 33 and from Hwy 33 north to Ozena. Firefighting resources staged at the Ventura County Fairgrounds are creating and reopening fuelbreaks, clearing roads, and providing structure protection. Warmer and drier weather forecasted through Tuesday evening will challenge firefighting efforts. A fire weather watch has been issued due to low humidity. A precautionary evacuation is issued for residents along the west side of Hwy 33 from the Ventura/Santa Barbara County line to Pine Mountain Summit. **215,692 acres; 77% contained; 3,053 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$87.4 million.**

August 21, 2007...Tuesday

The Zaca Fire becomes the second largest wildfire in California history surpassing the Matilija Fire that burned 220,000 acres in/adjacent to Los Padres NF in September 1932. The largest fire was the Cedar Fire that burned 273,246 acres in October 2003. Hwy 33 between Wheeler Gorge and Ventucopa remains closed until Friday due to fire equipment traffic. On the northwest perimeter, the fire is well established in Foresters Leap Canyon on the north rim of Sisquoc Canyon. On the northeast and east perimeter, the fire has moved to the boundary of the Dick Smith Wilderness near Hwy 33. Backfire operations are underway from Cuyuma Peak Road in Dry Canyon down Brubaker Canyon to Hwy 33. On the southeast perimeter, crews construct fireline directly next to the fire's edge northeast of Agua Caliente Springs. The Live Oak Zone is now approximately 97% contained. **222,557 acres; 79% contained; 3,090 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$90.2 million.**

August 22, 2007...Wednesday

Paradise Road is open from Hwy 154 to the First Crossing Day Use Area. Hwy 33 from Ventucopa to Ozena remains closed except to residents. Fire officials hope to reopen Hwy 33 to through traffic by Friday, August 24. Firing operations continue today north along the Hwy 33 corridor from Ozena to Rancho Nuevo Creek. Winds in the Brubaker Canyon stop fireline construction work in the Cuyama River drainage. There are still fuel islands burning out in Little Pine Mountain. The Live Oak Zone has reached full containment; suppression rehabilitation continues. **225,568 acres; 81% contained; 2,711 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$92.6 million.**

August 23, 2007...Thursday

Patrol, mop-up and fire suppression rehabilitation continue, while Richardson Zone builds direct fireline from the Sierra Madre Ridge into the Siquoc River drainage. The precautionary evacuation continues near Hwy 33, and there is no change to road or area closures. There is significant fire behavior and growth associated with firing operations in the Richardson Zone. **232,449 acres; 83% contained; 2,520 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$99.2 million.**

August 24, 2007...Friday

Significant activity near Hwy 33 requires a Recommended Evacuation in the area west of Hwy 33 from Ozena to the Ventura/Santa Barbara County line. A spot fire in the Brubaker Canyon area spreads to about 300 acres. Some small spots across Hwy 33 are controlled. Fireline is completed north and south of the Siquoc River in the Richardson Zone. Hwy 33 is closed between Quatal Canyon and Wheeler Gorge. **236,236 acres; 83% contained; 2,567 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$101 million.**

August 25, 2007...Saturday

In the afternoon a spot fire spreads upslope to Cuyama Peak but is slowed using aerial retardant and held to approximately 30 acres. Hwy 33 is opened from Lockwood Valley to Wheeler Gorge, and open to residents only from Quatal Canyon to Lockwood Valley Road. **239,468 acres; 85% contained; 2,414 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$103 million.**

August 26, 2007...Sunday

Efforts are focused on the Cuyama Peak and Brubaker Canyon slopovers. Containment and rehabilitation efforts continue. No changes to road closures, evacuations or area closures. **241,550 acres; 85% contained; 2,466 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$103 million.**

August 27, 2007...Monday

The slop-over in Brubaker Canyon remains the highest priority. Direct attack remains successful with aggressive use of aerial retardant, but work progresses on an indirect contingency line in the Dry Canyon and Pato Canyon areas north of the slopover. Today's lower acreage figure is the result of more accurate mapping. Hwy 33 was opened to all traffic last night, and today all evacuations are lifted. Live Oak Zone continues restoration work. The Type 1 NIMT begins transition to a T2 IMT on the Live Oak Zone.

204,207 acres; 90 % contained; 2409 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$105 million.

August 28, 2007...Tuesday

Crews make good progress in the Cuyama Peak and Brubaker Canyon areas using helicopter resources to rappel firefighters into inaccessible areas. Aerial infrared photography and firefighters using night vision goggles identify hot spots and ground patrols work to extinguish problem areas, primarily along the completed fire line in the Sisquoc River drainage and the northern perimeter of the fire. Over the next three days, predicted lower relative humidity, higher temperatures and potential increased fire activity will test containment lines. **240,207 acres; 95% contained; 2,195 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$108 million.**

August 30, 2007...Thursday

Aerial infrared photography and ground patrols are used to identify and cool hot spots, primarily along completed fireline in the Sisquoc River drainage and along the northern perimeter. Isolated thunderstorms are predicted in the area. Firefighters watch for any potential lightning-caused fire starts in the fire area and keep a heads-up for changing weather conditions. There is a new lightning-caused fire (Mine Fire) five miles south of McPherson Peak in the San Rafael Wilderness. Aerial resources are used to slow the new fire's forward spread. Suppression rehabilitation efforts are progressing along firelines and roads in the Live Oak Zone. Heavy equipment is moved from completed areas to the Romero Canyon area. Hand crews begin chipping and scattering cut brush throughout the Live Oak Zone. The night shift is down-sized to a patrol status. **240,207 acres; 95% contained; 1,986 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$111 million.**

August 31, 2007...Friday

Crews continue mop-up along the containment lines and start back haul of excess supplies all along the fire's perimeter. Rehabilitation of fire suppression lines will also continue. Crews are flown into the Mine Fire to construct hand line. Very good progress is made with suppression rehabilitation along fire lines and roads in both zones. Firefighters continue to be watchful for any lightning or thunderstorms and will respond to any new fires. Temperatures are around 100 degrees with decreased relative humidity. **240,207 acres; 95% contained; 1,486 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$115 million.**

September 1, 2007...Saturday

Suppression rehabilitation efforts continue. Firefighters expect to complete direct fireline construction around the 30-acre Mine Fire by the end of the day and mop-up within 100 feet of the fireline. Firefighters continue to watch for new lightning-related fires. Temperatures are around 100 degrees with decreased relative humidity. **240,207 acres; 97% contained; 1,486 personnel; estimated suppression costs: \$117 million.**

September 2, 2007...Sunday

Firefighters continue to mop-up and patrol firelines, and have mopped up within a 500 foot zone along the entire fire perimeter. Aircraft using infrared photography identify remaining hot spots within the interior of the Mine Fire. Hot and dry weather will increase the potential for fire activity in unburned vegetation within the interior of the fire. Temperatures are over 100 degrees with low relative humidity. Seventy-seven miles

of fireline are now rehabilitated. Over the next several days, firefighters and dozer and excavator operators will complete an additional 60 miles. The fire is declared fully contained at 6:00p.m. **240,207 acres; 100% contained; 1362 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$117 million.**

September 3, 2007...Monday

Firefighters continue to mop-up and patrol firelines along the perimeter of the fire. Aircraft using infrared photography identify potential remaining hot spots within the interior of the fire. Continuing hot and dry weather will increase the potential for fire activity in unburned vegetation within the fire's perimeter. Temperatures are expected to be over 100 degrees with low relative humidity. **240,207 acres; 100% contained; 1,100 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$115 million.**

September 4, 2007...Tuesday

The Zaca Fire is fully contained. A fire is considered contained when a control line has been completed around the fire, and any associated spot fires, which can reasonably be expected to stop the fire's spread. A fire is considered "controlled" when the containment lines can reasonably be expected to hold under the foreseeable conditions. The Zaca Fire is not expected to be controlled for at least several more weeks. Firefighters will maintain a 500-foot wide perimeter in which all residual fire will be extinguished. Interior islands of unburned fuel will continue to put up visible columns of smoke until the area receives rain or prolonged higher humidity. Aircraft using infrared photography will assist in monitoring the fire. A Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team continues assessing the fire's impacts to the national forest and will recommend measures to prevent additional damages to roads, trails and drainages. **240,207 acres; 100% contained; 988 personnel; estimated cost to date: \$118 million.**