P R E S S R E L E A S E

Sunday, June 19, 2016
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sherpa Fire Facts
June 19, 2016, 10:30 a.m.

FACTS

- A fire started off of Refugio Road at approximately 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15.
- The cause is under investigation
- Two fire fighters that suffered minor injuries have returned to the line.
- There are 270 structures threatened. One small water treatment building @ El Capitan state beach burned.
- Current estimate of acres burned is 7,811 acres and 45% contained.
- Continued threat to structures, agriculture crops, state parks, and critical infrastructure: communication sites, power lines, rail and Hwy 101.
- Primary fuel: brush, tall grass chaparral (65+ years of growth)
- A Red Flag Warning is in effect 6/19 3:00 p.m. through 6/21 10:00 a.m., with temperatures expected in the high 90s. Winds will begin from the north-northeast and shift to the northwest, with wind speeds around 25-30 miles per hour and gusts up to 55 miles per hour. Humidity is expected to change from 40-45% last night to expected lows of 8-20% in the afternoon and evening. Sundowners are expected to begin building at 2:00 p.m.
- Today firefighters will continue to work on building and reinforcing containment lines along the North and East sides of the fire, and along Highway 101. Crews will continue with contingency lines on the East side of the fire.
- Fire activity along Highway 101 is under continuous evaluation by fire managers and the California Highway Patrol. The Hwy may be closed again if the fire is determined to be a hazard to motorists.
- Unified Command
  - US Forest Service
  - SB County Fire Department
  - CalFire
- Equipment/Personnel:
  - 6 dozers
  - 130 engines
  - 10 water tenders
  - 62 hand crews
  - 2016 personnel
SHERPA FIRE UPDATE

- Air support rotation of:
  - 6 helicopters
  - 4 air tankers
  - 1 DC-10s
- Air quality condition checks can be found at www.ourair.org

AGRICULTURAL IMPACT
- Crops damaged: avocado, lemon, olives, and ranch land. Value of damages unknown.
- Firefighters are coordinating fire suppression efforts with farmers and ranchers to protect properties.

ROAD CLOSURES
- Highway 101 and rail service remain open, potential for overnight closures exists.
- One hard road closure: Calle Real from El Cap to Refugio Rd at Cathedral Oaks. This closure remains.

EVACUATIONS
- There are no new evacuations.
- Mandatory:
  From east of the Refugio burn area, Refugio State Beach: Refugio Canyon, Venadito Canyon, Canada del Venadito Canyon, Las Flores Canyon, El Capitan Canyon, El Capitan Ranch, El Capitan State Beach, Canada de la Destiladera.
  Warning:
  Calle Lippizana east to Farren Road, Las Llagas Canyon, Gato Canyon, Las Varas Canyon, Dos Pueblos Canyon, Eagle Canyon.
- Residents who live in West Goleta are encouraged to formulate an emergency evacuation plan.

SHELTERS
- The following shelters have been established:
  - **Wake Center**, 300 N. Turnpike Road, Santa Barbara
    - Currently has 5 people
    - Small pets okay
  - **Goleta Valley Community Center**, 5679 Hollister Ave., Goleta. (STANDBY)
  - **Santa Ynez Union High School**, 2975 E. Hwy 246, Santa Ynez. (STANDBY)
  - **San Marcos High School**, 4750 Hollister Ave., Santa Barbara. (STANDBY)
  - **Santa Barbara High School**, 700 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara. (STANDBY)

ANIMALS:
- Anyone in the evacuation area that needs assistance with small and large animals evacuations should call 681-4332.(Earl Warren is no longer an animal shelter.)

RESIDENTS
- **Call 211 or 1-800-400-1572**
- Monitor the status of the fire and any guidance on the County of Santa Barbara website: www.countyofsb.org
- Sign up for Aware and Prepare alerts: www.awareandprepare.org
SHERPA FIRE UPDATE

- Consider if additional travel time will be needed through the area.

MEDIA
- JIC: 805-969-1188
- Forest Service Information Line: 805-968-6640
- Hashtag: #SherpaFire
- Websites, social media and channel 20 updated.