PRESS RELEASE

Sherpa Fire Facts
June 20, 2016, 12:30 pm

CURRENT SUMMARY UPDATE
Despite strong winds last night the firefighters were able to hold the fire in check in order to build and reinforce containment lines.

Weather today will be hotter and drier than Sunday. There is still a very high potential for active fire.

Firefighters will continue to work on building and reinforcing containment lines along the north and east sides of the fire and along the Camino Cielo Ridge.

Aggressive aerial operations by both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters are suppressing the edge of the fire and giving support to ground crews with water and retardant drops.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has implemented a temporary flight restriction for the airspace around the Sherpa Fire burn zone, including west Goleta and nearby incident command posts. This restriction applies to all piloted and non-piloted aircraft systems. Drones can pose a safety hazard and delay firefighting aviation operations.

Source: California Interagency Incident Management Team 4

ONGOING FACTS
- A fire started off of Refugio Road at approximately 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15.
- The cause is under investigation
- Power outages are possible in the County between 10:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on June 20 as result of high local temperatures.
- Currently Southern California Edison is reporting that 19 customers near El Capitan Canyon are without power because power poles and lines were downed from the fire. Repair crews have been notified; power is expected to be restored on June 21.
- There are 270 structures threatened. One small water treatment building @ El Capitan state beach burned.
- Current estimate of acres burned is 7,893 acres and 54% contained.
- Continued threat to structures, agriculture crops, state parks, and critical infrastructure: communication sites, power lines, rail, Hwy 101, and major water supply line.
- Primary fuel: chaparral (60+ years of growth), tall grass
SHERPA FIRE UPDATE

- Sundowner winds developed over the fire and were gusting to 50mph. Relative humidity was lower than previous nights. Temperatures are expected to increase Monday to high 90’s to low 100’s on the fire.
- **Red flag warning** remains in effect for the fire.
- Fire activity along Highway 101 is under continuous evaluation by fire managers and the California Highway Patrol. The 101 Highway may be closed again if the fire is determined to be a hazard to motorists.
- Overall fire behavior was moderate yet the fire still has the potential to increase in activity due to strong winds.
- Aggressive aerial and ground suppressions efforts limited fire spread to isolated consumption of chaparral and tall grass within containment lines.

- Unified Command
  - US Forest Service
  - SB County Fire Department
  - CALFIRE
- Equipment/Personnel:
  - 14 dozers
  - 129 engines
  - 27 water tenders
  - 49 hand crews
  - 1926 personnel
  - Air support rotation of:
    - 18 helicopters
    - 4 air tankers
    - 1 DC-10s
- Air quality condition can be found at [www.ourair.org](http://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.
- Agriculture Commissioner’s Office is working with land owners to protect their crops and assets.
- County has established a “helpline” for farmers and ranchers: [sherpaag@agcommissioner.com](mailto:sherpaag@agcommissioner.com)

ROAD CLOSURES

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

**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, and Canada de la Destiladera.

**Warning:**
- Calle Lippizana east to Farren Road, Las Llagas Canyon, Gato Canyon, Las Varas Canyon, Dos Pueblos Canyon, and 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

**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**
- **Red Cross of SB County** has activated a hotline for general public: **805-272-0029**
- Information boards have been put up at Calle Real Marketplace, the 76 gas station on Winchester Canyon Road, and the southbound Gaviota rest stop on the 101.
- Monitor the status of the fire and any guidance on the County of Santa Barbara website: [www.countyofsfb.org](http://www.countyofsfb.org)
- Sign up for Aware and Prepare alerts: [www.awareandprepare.org](http://www.awareandprepare.org)
- Consider if additional travel time will be needed through the area.

**MEDIA**
- JIC: 805-696-1188
- Forest Service Information Line: 805-968-6640
- Hashtag: #SherpaFire
- Websites, social media and channel 20 updated.