WHITTIER FIRE UPDATE – 10 a.m.

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) - As of 7am on July 9, 2017, an estimated 7,800 acres have burned in the Whittier Fire with 5% containment. A number of structures have been lost on both sides of Highway 154. Assessment teams will be observing and reviewing the structure losses today.

Evacuation orders remain in effect for Highway 154 from Armour Ranch to Paradise Road and from Farren Road to Winchester Canyon in the Goleta area. All campgrounds off Highway 154 have been evacuated and Highway 154 is closed from Highway 246 to Foothill/Cathedral Oaks. It is anticipated that Highway 154 will be closed for several days.

An evacuation warning has been issued for Las Varas Canyon east to Winchester Canyon and from Highway 101 North to W. Camino Cielo. An evacuation warning has also been issued for Paradise Road from 154 to the first river crossing. Anyone in this area should be gathering family members, pets, important documents and irreplacable items and be prepared to leave. People with special needs should evacuate now. Large animals should be evacuated now.

PEOPLE
Based on evacuation orders and warnings, a number of people stayed at shelters established by the American Red Cross for the two fires in Santa Barbara County. Last night, 6 individuals stayed at the Red Cross shelter at the Minami Center in Santa Maria, 29 stayed at San Marcos High School in Santa Barbara, and 5 stayed at the Santa Inez Elementary School shelter.

There are no known injuries.

ANIMALS
For the southern region of the County, a number of small animals were sheltered including 1 horse, 3 cats, 4 dogs, 4 birds, and a guinea pig. All but two dogs were sheltered at the Santa Barbara Humane Society. County Animal Services in Santa Barbara is also providing shelter care. Two horses evacuated from the fire are now at Earl Warren Showgrounds. All animal owners are asked to call 805-681-4332 for assistance or information about evacuating any large animals.

In the early morning hours of July 9, a special animal evacuation was made by a Santa Barbara County Animal Control Officer as homeowners were out of town and animals were left in the home. Two schnauzers, Tucker and Cloe, were safely removed from a home in the evacuation area. The dogs were happily reunited with their owners today.

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