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**From:** Robin Goldsworthy [cvweekly@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 01, 2009 1:16 AM  
**To:** cvweekly@gmail.com  
**Subject:** FIRE UPDATE: Tuesday, Sept. 1 @ 1:00 a.m.

## Crescenta Valley neighborhoods continue to stand watch

By Mary O'Keefe

Crescenta Valley Weekly

About 100 people spent Sunday night at the Red Cross shelter at Crescenta Valley High School waking to find that the Station Fire was still out of control. Neighbors throughout the community kept their eyes on the hills as fire continued to devour acreage on Monday, now claiming over 105,000 acres and with 5% containment. A scheduled Monday night meeting with Los Angeles County Fire officials was canceled as the firefighters were needed in Palmdale for fire support.

As of 10:30 p.m., there were no changes to evacuated status in neighborhoods in La Crescenta and north Glendale, though some areas that had been under mandatory status saw an increase in safety presence as deputies and officers firmly maintained the containment perimeters. (See below for a list of mandatory evacuations.)

To the west, a total of 53 structures, a combination of homes and recreational cabins, have been destroyed primarily in the Big and Little Tujunga areas. Twelve firefighters have been injured with what are described as minor injuries and smoke inhalation. This is in addition to the two firefighters who lost their lives on Sunday in the Camp 16 area near Mt. Gleason. A total of 12,500 homes are threatened by the fire, said Joel Gonzalez, spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service.

Crescenta Valley residents stood on street corners and lined local sidewalks as they watched the San Gabriel mountains that have defined their community burn bright orange as fire trailed down the slopes. At some points it would glow red hot then burst with a sudden explosion. This was due to a back burn or tactical burn conducted by fire officials in the Deukmejian Wilderness Park on Monday.

The burn caused concern throughout the community as residents saw a noticeable increase in fire activity, but was unsure as to the cause.

“The [back burn] will go on throughout the night,” Gonzalez said.

The fire continues to stretch out into the Angeles National Forest with the parameters of the Foothill (210), Ventura (5) and the Antelope Valley (14) freeways.

“It is really spreading in each and every direction,” Gonzalez said.

Firefighters are constructing a 75 mile fire line in the Acton area. A fire line is an area that has been cleared of most of its vegetation and fire fuel drawing a line that will hopefully block the fire.

As the fire grows so does the number of personnel with 3,670 emergency responders from several agencies now battling the blaze. This is in addition to the many volunteers that help with evacuation centers and everywhere help is needed.

While most of the attention has been in the national forest, there are firefighters that continue to man the local

stations. On Monday night a transformer in the 4300 block of Oakwood Avenue in La Canada failed causing sparks to fly down onto a wooden structure in the backyard of resident Al Restivo. A local man noticed the smoke and began watering down the flames on the structure and nearby trees while a neighbor called 911.

“The firefighters arrived right away. The flames were shooting up in the trees. We were really fortunate that it didn’t go any farther,” Restivo said. Three engines responded with firefighters from Station 82 and 19; each station has an engine ready to respond to any emergency.

Capt. Chris Rash and his men had been battling the Station Fire in days earlier and had been rotated to Station 82. Because of the work load, they had not had a "real" meal in a long time and had decided to have dinner at Hill Street Cafe.

“We just got our ice tea when the call came in,” Rash said.

The firefighters responded immediately and the fire was out in a matter of minutes. They tore up the floor of the structure to make certain the fire was out.

Rash said that just two days before they received a call from a resident on Starlight Crest reporting that fire was quickly approaching her backyard and she did not see any fire engines on her street.

“We went their with my skeleton crew of five - me and four guys - and took our ladder truck,” he said. They fought the fire and requested air support and the fire was knocked back.

“These guys are just great,” Restivo said.

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4300 evacuations may last through Labor Day weekend

**Mandatory Evacuation** is still in the following places (all immediate effected areas):

*Glendale*

Pennsylvania west to Lowell north above Santa Carlotta Street.

*La Crescenta*

Vicinity of Rosemont, La Crescenta, and Ramsdell AND

North of Rockdell St and Faircrest Dr between Rosemont Ave and the foothills

South of Markridge Rd to Orange Ave between Pennsylvania Ave and Oceanview Blvd INCLUDING Orange Cove Ave

*Acton*

There has been a mandatory evacuation of Soledad Canyon Rd. between Agua Dulce Canyon Rd. and Crown Valley Rd. There is a mandatory evacuation of the area bounded by Soledad Canyon Rd, Aliso Canyon Rd. and Angeles Forest Highway.

*La Canada Flintridge*

Homes east of Jensen Drive, northeast of Los Amigos St. east of Castle Road and east of Ocean View Boulevard

Briggs Ave to Pennsylvania north of Harmony Place

Rockdell area - Briggs north of Rockdell

*Altadena*

Prieto Fire Rd and Millard Canyon north of Risinghill Rd

Chaney Trail and Alzada Dr north of Jaxine Dr

Littlerock Resort Area  
Cheseboro Road south of Mt Emma Road

*Tujunga*

Northwest of Day at Blue Gum Canyon Rd to Glory Ave to westbound Apperson St to northbound Fairgrove Ave to westbound Summitrose St to northbound Pinyon Ave to westbound Hillrose St to northbound Seven Hills Dr to Lonzo St.

**Evacuations are lifted** for RESIDENTS ONLY:

*La Canada*

West of Arroyo Seco Rd. to Alta Canada, north of Olive Lane  
Vago Street West to Linda.  
All areas west of Arroyo Seco Rd. at Ocean View Boulevard, south of Canalda Drive

*Altadena*

Fair Oaks Ave. west to Arroyo Seco Rd.  
North of W. Loma Alta Dr between Aralia Rd and Fair Oaks Ave

1 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1

For additional information on the status of the City of La Canada, visit the website  
[www.lacanadaflintridge.com](http://www.lacanadaflintridge.com)

*This report was provided by Crescenta Valley Weekly, a new advertising supported publication that will arrive in foothill driveways weekly beginning on Thursday, Sept. 3. Our official website, [www.crescentavalleyweekly.com](http://www.crescentavalleyweekly.com), will also be online at that time. For more information about Crescenta Valley Weekly, e-mail Robin Goldsworthy, publisher, at [cvweekly@gmail.com](mailto:cvweekly@gmail.com).*

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