

Angora Fire Incident Summary

South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County

June 28, 2007, 8:00 a.m. Update

Quick Facts:

- 3,100 acres burned as of June 28, 2007
- 229 residences and 75 outbuildings have been destroyed; 26 residences are damaged
- 800 residences, 275 commercial structures, and 180 outbuildings remain threatened
- Cause of fire continues to be unknown
- Fire is 60% contained; full containment expected July 3, 2007
- No fatalities and 3 injuries
- Road Closures: Highway 50 is open in both directions. Highway 89 is closed from the Junction of US 50 in South Lake Tahoe to Emerald Bay
- 2,174 personnel assigned to the incident
- Legislative Districts affected: Senate 1: Cox; Assembly 4: Gaines

The fire started on June 24, 2007 just after 2:00 p.m., at Upper Truckee Road and Seneca Drive in South Lake Tahoe. The U.S. Forest Service and local fire agencies responded to the fire. Per the OES Fire and Rescue Duty Officer, there was no overnight change as of June 27, 2007, and potential fuel on the interior was burned which should assist in further containment. First-line at Highway 89 is secure and under mop-up.

Evacuations

The Gardner Mountain and Tahoe Keyes continue to be heavily staffed for fire protection. The winds are expected from the southwest and picking up in velocity and even stronger at ridge-top with gusts at 40 mph and 20 mph at lower levels. There is a high level of concern for the north end of the fire; areas should remain under voluntary evacuation until the wind event passes. Trigger points on fire behavior will be established for changing the voluntary evacuation currently in affect to mandatory. A comprehensive evacuation plan has been developed for the Tahoe Keyes area, should it become necessary, and a traffic control plan has been developed for the Stateline area. Currently, there are mandatory evacuations for approximately 2,000 residences. South Lake Tahoe Police Department, Coast Guard and the Sheriff's Office will all have heavy marine safety presence in the Tahoe Keyes area for suppression efforts.

There was a mandatory evacuation of the Gardner Mountain area the afternoon of June 26, 2007, involving about 2500 individuals, due to a flare up of the fire inside the fire line near the northwest boundary of the City of South Lake Tahoe. No new structures in this area have burned. The fire did not succeed in crossing Highway 89 other than spot

fires. The main concern for the next three days, beginning June 28, 2007, is that the winds are expected from the southwest and picking up in velocity.

As a precautionary measure, Barton Hospital evacuated 40 facility patients on June 26, 2007. The patients and associated nursing staff evacuated to a residential care facility in Nevada, using wheel chair lift-equipped buses from the City of South Lake Tahoe. . A total of five acute care patients (ICU level) were transferred to Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center the evening of June 27, 2007.

Shelters

An American Red Cross shelter has been established at the South Lake Tahoe City Recreation Center, 1180 Rufus Allen Blvd. The shelter's capacity is 250 and housed one evacuee the evening of June 27, 2007. The American Red Cross has closed the shelters at Carson Valley Middle School and Incline Village High School and plans to close Recreation Center on June 28, 2007. An additional 123 individuals have reportedly used local hotels for shelter. Local hotels will be offered free of charge to fire victims until Friday, June 29, 2007.

Animal care is not an issue at this time. County animal control, along with *Noah's Wish*, is operating an animal care facility outside the shelter. Additional offers of assistance are being forwarded to the County. Assistance is also being provided by animal control agencies from various adjacent counties.

A large Community Meeting was held on Monday, June 25, 2007 at South Tahoe Middle School. The meeting was attended by 1000-1500 persons. USFS announced another public briefing on Thursday June 28, 2007 at 8:00 p.m., at the Tahoe Middle School. The meeting is expected to be in the same format as the previous meeting held in the school cafeteria on Monday night. (Note: the meeting scheduled for the evening of June 28, 2007 with Assemblyman Gaines was reported cancelled.)

Emergency Operations Center Activations

The El Dorado County Office of Emergency Services has activated its alternate Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in South Lake Tahoe (SLT) at the SLT Airport. An Incident Command Post is located at the Heavenly Ski Resort and is in Unified Command with USFS, South Lake Tahoe City, and Lake Valley Fire District.

The OES Inland Region Emergency Operations Center and State Operations Center are both activated at duty officer status and are being supported by staff assigned to the incident in South Lake Tahoe from OES' Fire and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Recovery, and Inland Region branches; in addition a Joint Information Center has been established.

Utility Issues

South Tahoe Public Utilities District system lost telemetry on June 27, 2007, with most of the system operational as of June 28, 2007. There have been problems keeping some tanks full due to fire demand. Customers have been requested to conserve water to assist with fire fighting efforts. A Boil Water Order for the areas of North Upper Truckee, Lake Tahoe Blvd., and Tahoe Mountain is anticipated for June 28, 2007.

The California Utilities Emergency Association (CUEA) advises Sierra Pacific Power Company reports that they have approximately 350 customers without power with most of the due to homes being destroyed. The California Independent System Operator advised there are no transmission lines threatened that would affect the power grid.

Southwest Gas: It has confirmed that there are 1400 customers without gas and approximately 2000 other customers are on standby for gas energy disconnection. Wind conditions will determine whether the 2000 customers on standby will have their gas energy shut off. Southwest Gas is isolating the impacted areas.

Echo View: The system tank ran dry which depressurized the system. The tank and system are currently being re-pressurized. Residents of the subdivision have been evacuated but may be allowed to return by June 28, 2007. A Boil Water Order will be issued as residents return.

North Upper Truckee: The tank and pump station were burned over but are operational using the backup generator. The system has been re-pressurized and disinfected. Bacteria samples taken early today appear to be free from bacteria. Residents may return tomorrow.

Lookout and Angora: Tank status is unknown. District staff will hike in June 29, 2007 to check tanks.

Lukins Water System: A well on the west side by fire lost power and is operating using a generator. System did not lose pressure.

Tahoe Keys: This water system has reported no fire related damage and is operating normally.

County system: No change from previous report. All areas that have not evacuated have functioning water systems.

Environmental Issues (Information Provided by California Environmental Protection Agency, Lahontan Regional Water Board)

The California Environmental Protection Agency Departmental Operations Center has been activated since Monday (June 25, 2007) morning and has dispatched Agency Representatives to the County Emergency Operations Center.

Heavy smoke is present throughout the southern portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin. A health advisory has been issued by El Dorado County for persons sensitive to the smoke. These smoky conditions are likely to remain for a number of days until the fire is fully suppressed. An air monitoring strategy is being developed.

Beginning Monday June 25, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) deployed five, community oriented fine particulate matter monitors in populated areas in and around the South Lake Tahoe area. On Wednesday June 27, at the request of the local fire chief, ARB added several additional site specific monitors in areas that had been evacuated but where residents are presently being allowed back to their homes. The community monitors have been reporting hourly PM2.5 data which, during early morning hours, have reached very unhealthy and hazardous levels. The highest levels to date were observed during the overnight and early morning hours of June 26-27. Monitoring information is being provided to incident command staff at the airport, and to the local air pollution, the environmental health, and the public health department for use in their health advisories.

The fire has burned 2,500 acres that is approximately seven percent of the Upper Truckee River watershed. Ash and smoke deposits to the lake surface will impact water quality.

The loss of vegetation will increase erosion and will likely result in increased sediment transport to the Upper Truckee River and Lake Tahoe. The actual impacts to Lake Tahoe will vary based on future weather conditions and the types of vegetation lost, soil types in the burned area, restoration efforts, and many other factors that still need to be evaluated.

As a result of the fire, significant amounts of waste materials will be generated. These include waste from burned homes and other structures, which may include hazardous wastes. Based on experiences in other parts of the state that have suffered similar fires, a strategy for managing their proper handling, recycling, and disposal is being developed by the County with the assistance of the state.

Emergency Proclamations

- On June 24, 2007, the El Dorado County OES declared a local emergency and has requested a State of Emergency. On June 25, 2007, the County submitted a revised proclamation requesting a State of Emergency and a Presidential Disaster Declaration.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved a Fire Management Assistance Declaration for the Angora Fire on June 25, 2007.
- A Proclamation of a State of Emergency for El Dorado County was issued on June 25, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.
- Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued an executive order on June 27, 2007 to help individuals who have suffered losses in the fire by waiving fees and assisting in the replacement of state documents, including vehicle registrations, driver's licenses and birth certificates.

Recovery Operations

- El Dorado County has established a Local Assistance Center (LAC) at Lake Tahoe Community College, 1 College Place, Lake Tahoe. It opened the morning of June 26, 2007 and will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The following agencies will send staff to the LAC:
 - **City of South Lake Tahoe**
 - **El Dorado County**
 - Sheriff's Office
 - Assessor
 - Office of Vital Records and Statistics
 - Building Department
 - Human Services
 - Housing
 - Food Stamps
 - Senior Services
 - Community Action Agency
 - Mental Health
 - **State of California**
 - OES/Individual Assistance
 - Contractor's State License Board
 - Employment Development Department Job Services
 - Department of Motor Vehicles
 - Department of Veterans Affairs (materials only)
 - Department of Insurance
 - **Volunteer Agencies**
 - American Red Cross
 - Salvation Army
 - Tzu Chi
 - **Private Insurance Companies**
 - AAA
 - State Farm
 - Farmers
 - Liberty Mutual
 - USAA
 - Allied
 - Safeco
 - AllState
 - GIG
- OES, FEMA, the US Small Business Administration, and the County met on June 27, 2007 and finalized plans to conduct a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) on June 28, 2007.

Significant Media/Press

Sacramento news media outlets have provided significant media coverage throughout the incident. Staff members from the OES Public Information Office are responding to increased requests from the public for further information.

Weather Watches and Warnings

- **Red Flag Warning:** In effect from 1:00 p.m. to 1300 to 11:00 p.m. Thursday for the Greater Lake Tahoe area.
- **Fire Weather Watch:** In effect Friday through the evening due to gusty winds and low humidity.

South Lake Tahoe Weather

Today, June 28, 2007 will be partly cloudy and breezy with areas of dense smoke. The high temperature will be 72 with a low around 40. Southwest winds around 13 mph increasing to 24 mph in the afternoon.