

(323) 881-2401

September 25, 2002

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

UPDATE NUMBER 3 ON THE WILLIAMS FIRE

As of 6:00 a.m. this morning, the fire had consumed approximately 26,000 acres and is about 10% contained. Other than the 44 vacation cabins lost in San Dimas Canyon Monday evening, there had been no more structures destroyed and only two minor injuries sustained by fire fighters.

A threat to residences remains in the Claremont area where the fire was situated on the mountain above approximately 700 homes. The fire was moving toward Mt. Baldy Village where there are approximately 375 residences, some of these are in Los Angeles County, but the majority are in San Bernardino County.

Objectives for today include continued structure protection, and fire line construction to expand control lines around the fire. The 16 helicopters and 10 fixed wing air tankers assigned to the incident will be utilized along with bulldozers, hand crews, and over 150 engine companies to meet these objectives.

Last night, approximately 100 residents were evacuated from Palmer Canyon, near Claremont, and about 1,000 were evacuated from the Mt. Baldy Village area.

The majority of the burned acreage so far is within the Angeles National Forest. Effective Tuesday, September 24, 2002, the Angeles National Forest was closed and will remain closed until the official close of fire season as ordered by Forest Supervisor, Judy Cook.

Each Supervisor
September 25, 2002
Page 2

Estimated costs of suppressing this fire are in excess of \$1.5 million and will increase as the operation continues. The Los Angeles County Fire Department has been approved for a FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant which should reimburse 75% of local government costs. Some of the suppression costs will be borne by the U.S. Forest Service as determined in future cost apportionment meetings with them.

So far, we and Los Angeles County residents have greatly benefited from a large-scale, state-wide mutual aid response. Los Angeles County Sheriff is well represented at the incident and is coordinating evacuations and perimeter control. The California Highway Patrol, local police departments, County Animal Care and Control, and Parks and Recreation are also major cooperators in this incident.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please let me know.

PMF:ji

c: David Janssen
Louisa Ollague
Randi Tahara
Joseph Charney
Matt Knabe
Jennifer Plaisted