



# Alive!

Chief Park Ranger Albert Torres, Rec and Parks, assesses the damage to now-closed Dante's View, overlooking Griffith Observatory.

## Ground Broken For Project That Breaks Ground

■ Sanitation begins nation's first pilot project to turn biosolids into clean energy.

**PUBLIC WORKS** — The Bureau of Sanitation, faced with the ongoing and mounting problem of what to do with biosolids, the soil-like by-product of wastewater treatment, has started building a project that it hopes will answer that big challenge — and create clean energy in the process.

The project is called the Terminal Island Renewable Energy project, which will inject biosolids into depleted oil and gas reservoirs 5,000 feet below Terminal Island. The biosolids will then be converted to clean energy through the natural conditions of high temperature and pressure existing below the earth's surface.

The Bureau hopes that the project will make the trucking of some 700 metric tons of biosolids to Kern County a thing of the past.

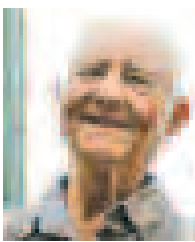


Omar Moghaddam, Sanitation, Project Overseer

**The details of the project begin on page 46.**

## For Retiree, It's Home Sweet Self-Sufficient Home

■ Ivan Forbes, Retiree, Public Works, and his son have built a home that often puts energy back into the grid.



Ivan Forbes, Retiree, Public Works

**RETIREES** — How energy-efficient are you? Probably not *this* energy-efficient.

Ivan Forbes, Retired, Public Works, with his son, Glenn, have spent more than 30 years building a home that works off the sun and wind, producing enough electricity

and hot water to power their reasonable lifestyle. And, when there's a good wind — they actually put energy back into the City's grid.

It has been a long journey, but with a payoff in sight. This summer, they are on schedule to break even on all they have spent, and make it pay off.

But it has always been about more than just paying off — it's about being independent, and "putting less smoke in the air."

**INSIDE:** The details of their house in Sylmar, and green tips from the DWP about the little steps we can all take. See the story on page 25.

## Fire in the City's Forest

*Alive!* presents exclusive photos and accounts of the devastating fire in Griffith Park — and how your fellow City employees are monitoring its natural recovery.

**See page 33.**

Photo by Tom Hawkins for Alive!



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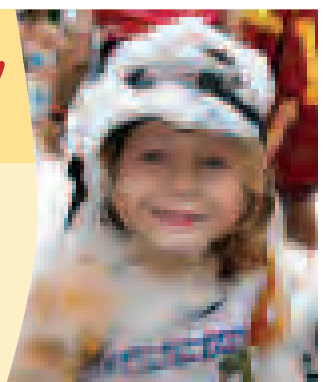
Mark Your Calendars



*ClubFest 2007  
Is on the Way!*

Sunday, Oct. 7,  
at Calamigos Ranch in  
the hills above Malibu.

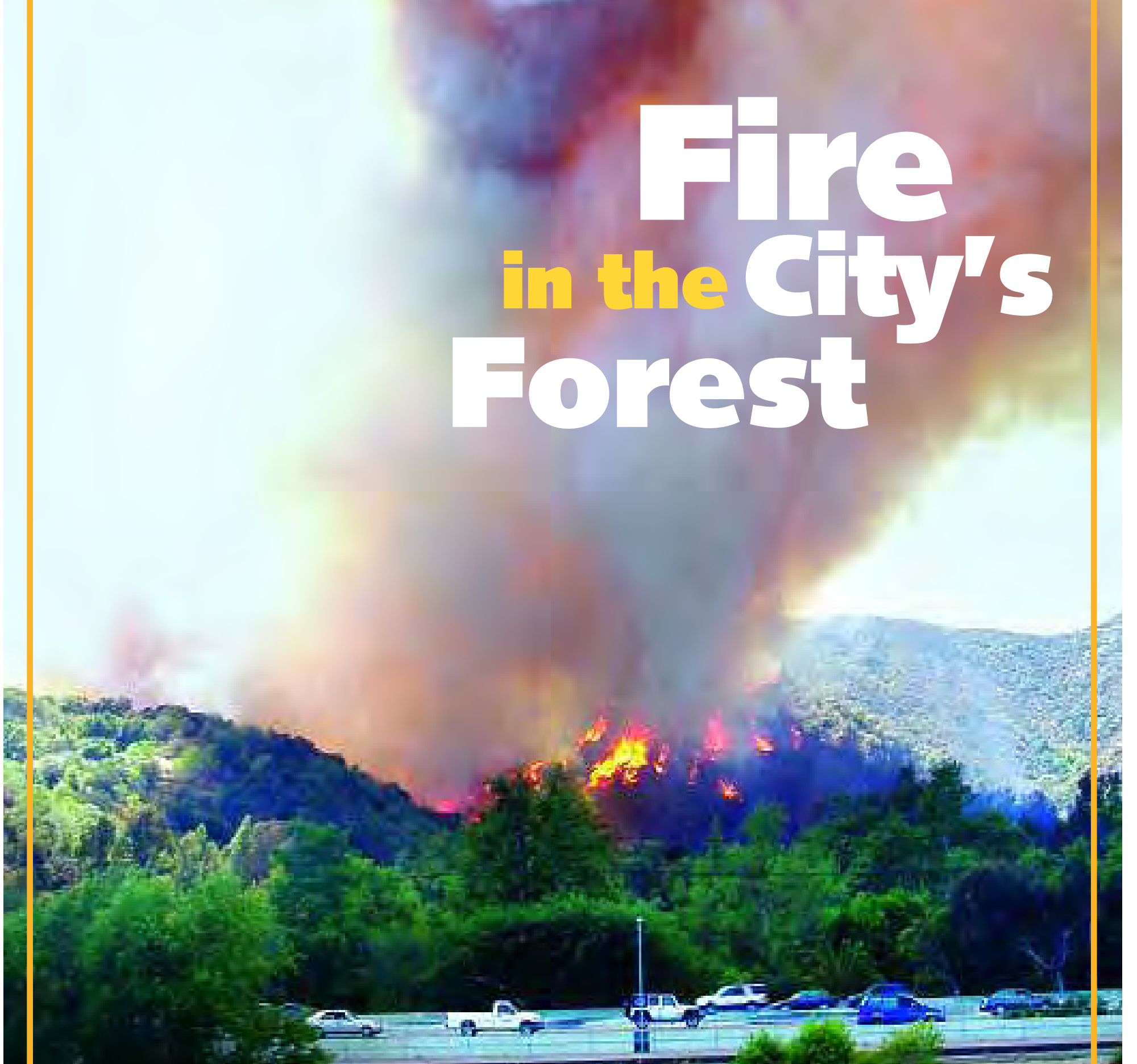
See page 9 for the story.





**THE GRIFFITH PARK FIRE: MAY 8-9, 2007**

# Fire in the City's Forest



■ **Alive!** presents exclusive photos and accounts of the devastating fire in Griffith Park – and how your fellow City employees are managing its natural recovery.

**FIRE DEPT., REC AND PARKS** – A major fire erupted at approximately 1:20 p.m. May 8 in Griffith Park, scorching 817 acres and calling several City departments into immediate and sustained action. Approximately 20 percent of the park was burned, and several popular park destinations remain closed at press time.

The conditions – high temperature, low humidity, dry winds and drought-like conditions – contributed to the power of the fire.

Arriving companies reported a seven-acre wind/topography driven fire in the steep and rugged hills of the park. The fire moved quickly through medium to heavy

dry grass and brush. The fire quickly moving southeast and threatened more than 300 homes in the Los Feliz area. Quick and aggressive structure protection by firefighters saved homes.

At press time, the cause had not been determined, although a person of interest was cooperating with officials and had been cited for smoking in a brush area.

Other than the person of interest, who was treated for burns, no one was injured in the fast-moving blaze. One firefighter was treated for heat exhaustion. One house was damaged, but no structure was destroyed.

**Fighting the fire required:**

- 21 Fire Companies
- 7 Command Teams
- 2 Rescue Ambulances
- More than 120 Firefighters
- 10 LAPD Officers
- 20 Public Safety Officers
- Dozens of Rec and Parks employees

As of press time, May 24, there were still hot spots and occasional flare-ups.

Destroyed by the fire were Dante's View and Captain's Roost. The Bird Sanctuary was 10 percent damaged, and the Cedar Grove was 20 percent damaged. One City vehicle was destroyed, as were several restrooms.

The Club gives a big round of applause to the all the City personnel who protected lives and property during this fire. On these pages are photos taken by your fellow City Employees.

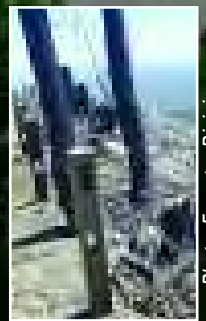


Photo: Forestry Division, Rec and Parks

**Photos by:**

- Albert Torres, Chief Park Ranger
- Lt. Jody Perez, Transportation
- Tom LaBonge, Councilman
- Jane Galbraith, Council Aide
- Ed Krupp, Director, Griffith Obs.
- Rick McClure, Captain, LAFD
- John Hawkins, CEO, The Club
- Tom Hawkins, Photographer, The Club

Photo: Forestry Division, Rec and Parks



# FIGHTING THE FIRE

## THE GRIFFITH PARK FIRE



Photo: Capt. Rick McClure, LAFD



Photo: Capt. Rick McClure, LAFD



Photo: Capt. Rick McClure, LAFD



Photo: Councilman Tom LaBonge's Office



Photo: Councilman Tom LaBonge's Office

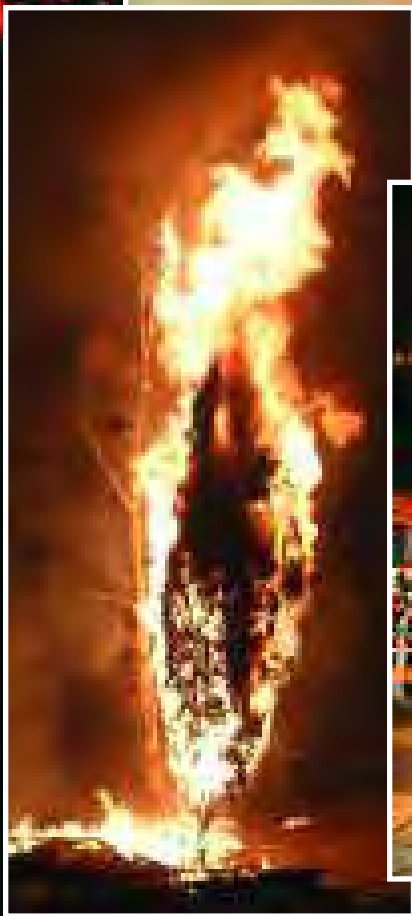


Photo: Capt. Rick McClure, LAFD



Photo: Capt. Rick McClure, LAFD



Photo: Capt. Rick McClure, LAFD



Photo: Chief Park Ranger Albert Torres, Rec and Parks

Dante's View, on fire.

**“[The fire] was moving wherever it wanted to go, and pretty much everybody was chasing after it. I’ve never seen anything in the City of L.A. burn like this burned.”**

**– Senior Park Ranger Pat Joyce**

## The *Alive!* Interview

# Off Duty, Then On

■ Senior Park Ranger Patrick Joyce was grocery shopping when he saw smoke coming from Griffith Park.

REC AND PARKS — *Alive!* interviews Senior Park Ranger Patrick Tracy, an 18-year ranger veteran who not only works in Griffith Park, but lives there, too.

**Alive!** So take me through that day. And you were in the park, but you were not on-duty.

**Patrick Joyce:** I was actually at the Albertson's on Hillhurst just below Los Feliz

Boulevard. I walked out the door with my groceries, and I looked up, and I saw the fire just starting, moving up the hill. The fire station was just down the street from Albertson's, and the fire engines were just coming up the street. So I left there and I went back to my house. I'm a resident park ranger, so I live in a ranger's station in the Ferndale area of Griffith Park. So I got back to my house, got in my ranger truck, and I responded to the fire.

I responded up to Vista del Valle area. I met up with the Fire Department there, and I started assisting them with pulling hose lines underneath the bridge that a lot of people saw on TV. So we pulled up a hose line there, and then from that point, the fire made it up to the top of that bridge. It spotted over into the canyon, the next canyon over, which is Fern Canyon, and then it started to burn back up the canyon there. And that's pretty much where the fire came on to the other side of the park.

**Alive!** Since you live in the park, was that a concern of yours?

**Patrick Joyce:** In the beginning, it wasn't. It's not often that fires make it [more than] 10 or 15 acres in Griffith Park. The Fire Department, the Rangers, and the helicopters are able to usually contain it.

**Alive!** To knock it down.

**Patrick Joyce:** Yeah, to usually a relatively small area. But as time went on, and the night grew late and started to turn dark, and the fire started to move in so many different directions, my wife was concerned and she packed up all the stuff and left.

**Alive!** Were you under an evacuation order then like so many people were?

**Patrick Joyce:** No. That area of the park was not.

**Alive!** But still you take the advice that the park rangers give everybody else, to be prepared.

**Patrick Joyce:** Yes.

**Alive!** So what were your duties? When did you finally get off-duty?

**Patrick Joyce:** Oh, that's a good question.

**Alive!** I imagine you didn't get any sleep.

**Patrick Joyce:** No, I think I got off work around 2 or 3 in the morning, and then I came back about 7 or 8 in the morning. So there were just a few hours of rest.

**Alive!** What were your duties all night? What did you do?

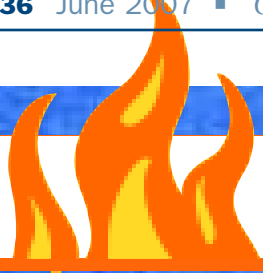
**Patrick Joyce:** Well, initially we were along Vista del Valle Drive, and we were working on the north flank of the fire, trying to find a spot where we could actually physically work the fire, trying to cut it off. Due to the weather conditions, that wasn't possible, so later on in the evening, we moved down into the old Zoo area, and we found a spot where what we call "anchoring the fire." We were able to find a safe spot where we could work, and start working along the base of the fire, and start trying to catch up with it.

(Continued on page 41)



Senior Park Ranger Patrick Joyce

Alive! staff photo



# FIGHTING THE FIRE



Photo: Capt. Rick McClure, LAFD



Photo: Councilman Tom LaBonge's Office



Photo: Chief Park Ranger Albert Torres, Rec and Parks

**“The speed of the  
enormous, and so  
never seen in my**

**– Chief Park**



Photo: Councilman Tom LaBonge's Office



Photo: Capt. Rick McClure, LAFD

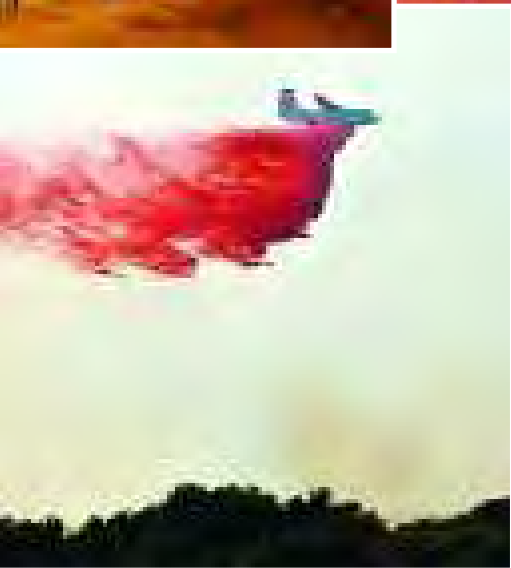


Photo: Capt. Rick McClure, LAFD

the fire was something that I've spent my whole career." Chief Park Ranger Albert Torres

## The Alive! Interview

# 'The amount on fire was massive'

■ **Alive!** interviews Chief Park Ranger Albert Torres on how the day unfolded, and the department's efforts to let the park heal itself naturally.

**REC AND PARKS** — Two weeks after the Griffith Park blaze broke out, *Alive!* sat down with Chief Park Ranger Albert Torres to get a first-hand account of the fire from someone who was there, and to talk about recovery efforts.

**Alive!** So were you here at the station when the first calls came in about the fire?

**Albert Torres:** Yes.

**Alive!** Talk us through it.

**Albert Torres:** Well, we had been thinking about the fire conditions anyway.

**Alive!** Because it's so dry?

**Albert Torres:** Well, for a lot of reasons, not just the dryness, but the weather itself, the wind, the relative humidity, just the conditions in Griffith Park in general. We were ordered by our General Manager, Jon Kirk Mukri, to have a fire watch every day to protect Griffith Park. We supported that order. So we had a fire watch vehicle, a unit on patrol every day, cognizant of the conditions that were extreme throughout the winter. We were aware of the other fires that had occurred and we were aware of the recent fire at Barham, which we participated in. A good portion of that fire was in Griffith Park. The ignition point of that fire was not.

**Alive!** But it crept over.

**Albert Torres:** Yes.

**Alive!** Okay, and so you were on fire watch. How did it come about that afternoon?

**Albert Torres:** We received a call from Senior Park Ranger Pat Joyce, that there was a fire in Griffith Park. And we had an immediate response to that fire.

The fire started to the rear of Vermont Tennis in Griffith Park, which is the old canyon, just east of Vermont Canyon in Griffith Park, just east of the Greek Theater. It spread very quickly. Upon my arrival the fire had ran up the hill to a ridge, and I observed the fire going over the ridge, and eastward toward the ranger station [on Crystal Springs Road].

**Alive!** What are your responsibilities when it comes to a fire like that?

**Albert Torres:** The park rangers have a fire crew and fire apparatus.

**Alive!** Here in the park?

**Albert Torres:** Yes. Our primary goal is to escort the LAFD to the fire, and to assist them in locating it. Our second goal is to be the first attack unit on any fire in Griffith Park. We'll locate the area, we'll do the assessment, just like the fire department would do, and we'll notify the fire department as we discover information. And we meet with the first fire captain who arrives. We help set up an incident command center.

**Alive!** So they have primary jurisdiction in a fire like that?

**Albert Torres:** Absolutely. We have two apparatus that are smaller brush fire engines, and we have two water tenders that hold two thousand gallons each of water. So, depending on the type of fire, we respond and we work with the fire department on fighting the fire. In this particular circumstance, most of our duties came into play, including informing the public, evacuating areas, doing traffic control, and informing our command staff.

### AN INTENSE FIRE

**Alive!** How quickly did the fire spread?

**Albert Torres:** Very quickly. The speed of the fire was enormous, and something that I've never seen in my whole career.



Alive! staff photo

**Alive!** How long is your career?

**Albert Torres:** I've been with the Park Rangers for 24 years.

**Alive!** So this is the fastest spreading fire you've ever seen in 24 years?

**Albert Torres:** Yes.

**Alive!** After awhile, was there some thought that it was dying down a little bit?

**Albert Torres:** From my standpoint, no, because I was constantly looking at the fire, and the fire, for what I could hear on the reports and from what I could see, was constantly moving.

**Alive!** You never had a moment to exhale?

**Albert Torres:** I did not.

**Alive!** What was the first thing you did?

**Albert Torres:** The first thing I did was to respond to the fire, and I went to a high point [Vista Viewpoint] and positioned myself in a safety role, in a perimeter watch of the fire. I noticed very quickly that the fire had jumped the ridge, and had caught several trees on fire and it was progressing downhill towards the ranger station. At that point I really was concerned. The wind was very unusual, and I made a transmission to the incident commander for the rangers, that there was a concern about the behavior of the wind, relative to everything else. I made that transmission, and then I hopped down back to the golf course because of the injured person, a person of interest. And I found out that everything was in hand there. So I returned to the fire and continued to observe it from my standpoint.

### DAMAGE AND EVENTUAL RECOVERY

**Alive!** How devastating was this fire to Griffith Park? How long do you think it'll take to come back, or to be back at a level where people can really enjoy it, like the trails and the views?

**Albert Torres:** I look at this fire like the many fires that we've experienced in Griffith Park, where there is a rapid recovery, that in three or four years, there's there's a substantial recovery of the habitat. That is inherent to the park.

But because this was a bigger fire, there are a lot of unknowns. There is concern because so many people depend on the park. It has been an injury to the people because they feel that there is a loss. But in the bigger picture, I don't see devastation. These type of fires have always occurred in Griffith Park, although not as big, and there has always been good recovery.

**Alive!** Are fires in Griffith Park natural things? But because of the number of people who live around Griffith Park and structures and cultural institutions, it creates increased risk and increased danger.

**Albert Torres:** Yes. We want to educate the people that these conditions -- the high temperatures, the low humidity, the wind factor -- are not rare. These type of fires occurred in Southern California before people ever came. The habitat of the flora in the park, all these plants that are native to Griffith Park, they're very explosive when they're caught on fire. Laurel sumac is a good example of a native plant that is predominant in Griffith Park -- when it lights on fire it explodes because of the leaf content and the nature of the plant itself. It doesn't require a lot of water.

(Continued on page 41)



# AFTERMATH

## THE GRIFFITH PARK FIRE



Photo: Tom Hawkins, Club photographer



Alive! editor John Burnes surveys the damage at Dante's View.

Photo: Forestry Division, Rec and Parks

**“I thought to myself, ‘Well, that fire is not going to get to Dante’s View’ ... and to my amazement, it did.”**

**– Chief Park Ranger Albert Torres**



Photo: Forestry Division, Rec and Parks

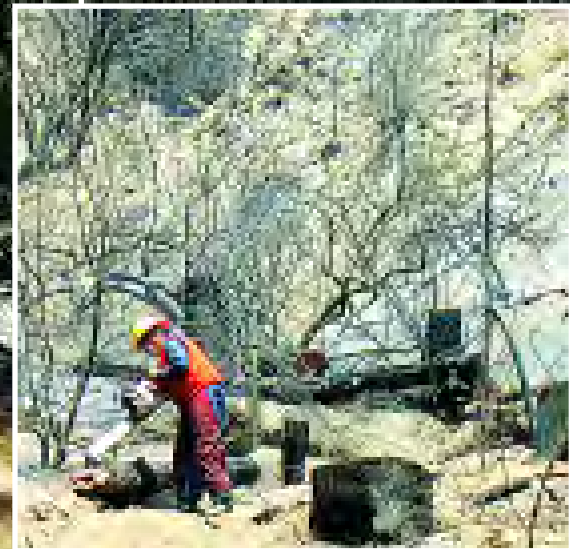


Photo: Forestry Division, Rec and Parks

Photo: Forestry Division, Rec and Parks



Chief Park Ranger Albert Torres looks at a picnic bench that partially melted during the fire, at Dante's View.



Photo: Tom Hawkins, Club photographer



Photo: Forestry Division, Rec and Parks



Photo: Forestry Division, Rec and Parks





# RESPONSE

## THE GRIFFITH PARK FIRE

Photo: Councilman LaBonge's Office



### More photos on the Web!

Log on to the Club's Website for even more great photos of the Griffith Park fire (membership required): [www.cityemployeesclub.com](http://www.cityemployeesclub.com)

From left: LAPD Chief William Bratton, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Councilman Tom LaBonge, LAFD Chief Douglas Barry and LAFD Battalion Chief Kwame Cooper, strategizing about fighting the fire.

Photo: Dr. Ed Krupp, Rec and Parks



Photo: Councilman LaBonge's Office

LAFD Chief Douglas Barry, Rec and Parks General Manager Jon Kirk Mukri, Councilman Tom LaBonge, Councilman Eric Garcetti and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa stage a press conference.



Photo: Lt. Jody Perez, Transportation

The press conference with California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

## THANKS

The Club would like to thank the following City Employees for their invaluable assistance in producing this special section:

Rick McClure, Captain/Paramedic, LAFD

Fred Fowlks, Captain, LAFD (Club Member)

Tom LaBonge, Councilman, Fourth District (Club Member)

Jane Galbraith, Director of Communications, Council District Four

Dr. Ed Krupp, Director, Griffith Observatory

Mark Pine, Deputy Director, Griffith Observatory

Kara Knack, Board Member, Friends of the Observatory

Albert Torres, Chief Park Ranger

Patrick Joyce, Senior Park Ranger

Tom Mendibles, Ranger

Doug Kilpatrick, Senior Park Ranger

Arcelia Rosas, Park Ranger

Jorge Ochoa, Rec and Parks Forestry Division

Iraida Valido, Rec and Parks Forestry Division (Club Member)

Fred Hall, Tree Surgeon Supervisor I (Club Member)

Harvey Drut, Public Relations Specialist 1, Rec and Parks

Jane Kolb, Public Information Director, Rec and Parks

Lt. Jody Perez, Transportation

Bruce Gillman, Public Information Director, Transportation

Gary Newton, Chief, General Services, Office of Public Safety

Lorena De La Torre, OPS Dispatcher, General Services, Office of Public Safety

Albert Jedinak, Senior Lead Officer, General Services, Office of Public Safety

Felipe Graciano, General Services, Office of Public Safety (Club Member)

Sgt. Dennis Wildy, General Services, Office of Public Safety

## The Alive! Interviews, CONTINUED

(Torres continued from page 37)

**Alive!:** What are the unknowns in the recovery?

**Albert Torres:** Well, the recovery section of our department, coordinated by Mike Shull, is identifying the hazards, and mitigating any disruption of those areas. They need to find out what is the best way to shore up those areas, to prevent massive erosion, and to get ready for the next big rain. Those kinds of things are being handled at a very high professional level. These things have happened before in Southern California, and so there are professionals who have gone through this before.

**Alive!:** Do you introduce vegetation and flora back to the park, or do you let that come back naturally?

**Albert Torres:** I'm not the expert on this and that's not really my area. But I have witnessed smaller fires in Griffith Park that completely recovered from these type of fires.

**Alive!:** On their own?

**Albert Torres:** On their own.

**Alive!:** They heal themselves?

**Albert Torres:** Uh-huh.

**Alive!:** But we're just waiting to see, because this was such a big one.

**Albert Torres:** That's correct. We want to make sure we mitigate the impact on the residential areas and the populated areas.

### CURRENT STATUS

**Alive!:** So the current status update right now: What roads are closed and what roads are available, and where should people not plan on visiting?

**Albert Torres:** On the Rec and Parks Webpage, www.laparks.org, there is the daily briefing on what is open and what is closed. It's called "Griffith Park Recovery, News and Information Blog." And it gives a list of areas that are open, and a list of areas that are closed.

**Alive!:** But in general, what are the more popular areas that are going to be down for a long time and may not come back in the same way they were?

**Albert Torres:** In general, I think the Vermont entrance is something that we are looking at very carefully. The Commonwealth entrance, the Los Feliz Riverside entrance, is open northbound. Crystal Springs Road southbound from the L.A. Zoo is a concern right now, and the road southbound from Travel Town is also closed.

**Alive!:** What about the entrances and exits from the Greek?

**Albert Torres:** The Greek Theater is back in business. Roosevelt Golf is back in business. However, the [Vermont] tennis courts, according to this briefing and it's very recent, are still closed. Additionally, in that canyon is a bird sanctuary, which will be closed.

**Alive!:** Was there a danger or worry that it was approaching or encroaching on the observatory, that this facility that we just rebuilt was in danger?

**Albert Torres:** There was always that concern. I was able to brief a captain from San Marino Fire Dept., who was assigned to the Griffith Observatory. I asked him to help us protect the valuable trees in that area. The observatory was never threatened at all.

### TREMENDOUS EFFORT

**Alive!:** What do you find most interesting about this fire?

**Albert Torres:** One of the things was I couldn't tell what the final outcome would be. I was looking at Bee Rock, and I was very proud of my rangers because they were working a spot below Bee Rock and they were taking a stand there and fighting the fire from that standpoint, protecting the old zoo.

**Alive!:** The original zoo location?

**Albert Torres:** Yes, which is now a picnic area. And I noticed that, because of the magnitude of the fire, it just kept moving backwards and igniting, and moving and moving. And I could see the Dante's View, and I thought to myself, "Well, that fire is not going to get to Dante's View" ... and to my amazement it did. I moved up to that area and saw that Councilman [Tom] LaBonge was with the Fire Chief. I [then] saw Dante's View completely on fire.

I saw something that I'd never seen before in my 24-year experience: The amount of area that was on fire was massive. And I was just trying to grasp what was going to happen next, and that's what I kept thinking about during the entire fire. I was thinking about the safety of my rangers and all the people involved, and I was also thinking about what was going to happen next. I saw a bird sanctuary on fire, and I saw trees and brush catching on fire at a place called Captain's Roost, which is really just due north of the observatory, and I was observing that from the observatory and noted this is a tremendous, tremendous fire.

I'm really proud of the fact that the rangers integrated their training and experience, and they rose to the occasion in working with the Fire Department and all of the other agencies and making it a coordinated safe effort. The thing that's different about this fire, compared to the 1933 fire, is that nobody was injured. And that is a tremendous thing. That's what we hope for each and every time. I'm really proud of them, and I'm particularly proud of the skills of my fire crew, and their leaders, and the tenacity of the rangers to do this work in cooperation with the Fire Department. What I saw with the Fire Department was very, very amazing, all the way from their Fire Chief, to their incident commander, to their firefighters, and to the outside agencies that came. It was just really a tremendous effort.

**Alive!:** Did rangers who were off the shift come in?

**Albert Torres:** We called some rangers out, and some understandably just reported in.

### SMOKEY WAS RIGHT

**Alive!:** How about some safety tips that people need to be reminded of in dry brush areas?

**Albert Torres:** The message of the Smokey Bear comes into play here absolutely. It's really up to all of us, and with our response to this larger fire we're definitely demanding of people not to smoke in areas where they normally would smoke, like picnic areas. We're going to tell people you cannot smoke here, no open flames, and we have an enforcement tool here.

We also are advising people who may have been hiking in the park for many, many years and feel comfortable coming back into the burned area, we would advise them do not come in the burn area. Even today, we're still putting out what we call "smokers" in the area. These are hot areas within the burn zone that are smoking, so we go and then we extinguish that. Sometimes we've had flare-ups.

We're concerned about branches, about trees that are weakened. We're concerned about rocks. Lots of rocks have fallen on the roads, on the trails. And we're concerned about erosion. So, anything that we can do to secure that area we will do, including citing of individuals after they've been warned.

**Alive!:** Did you learn anything from this?

**Albert Torres:** Two things. In Los Angeles, a lot of us Park Rangers have been through these types of disasters before. The ability to respond well is based on our training and our experience. Our training tells us that, in these kind of situations, we're going to be working for long periods of time, so we make sure that we're ready for it and we're prepared.

The other part about this is that it's something that we've done before. It's something that comes as part of our job, and we're pretty good at it.

**Alive!:** Did you get any sleep that night?

**Albert Torres:** I did not, and there were two executives who responded who did not. They were Vicki Israel, a superintendent for the Griffith region, and Kevin Reagan, the assistant general manager.

One of the things I want to say too is that our department, the Park Rangers, [respond to] hundreds of inquiries all day long. We help to direct people to the proper responses they need. A lot of their inquiries are about when are we going to be open and how this process is occurring.

**Alive!:** People want to know about access, I guess.

**Albert Torres:** Uh-huh. Other people want to donate money. Other people want to donate trees, and other people want to work. So we're channeling that information, saving it and directing it.

**Alive!:** Thanks, Chief.

**Albert Torres:** Sure.

(Joyce continued from page 35)

**Alive!:** When you say, "catch up with it," do you mean with water, or digging trenches, or shovels?

**Patrick Joyce:** We had rangers pulling hose lines along the base of the fire. And we had an engine and a water tender there.

**Alive!:** Were you exhausted in the morning?

**Patrick Joyce:** Yes! Very!

**Alive!:** You ever seen anything like this before?

**Patrick Joyce:** I worked one fire up in the San Bernardino National Forest along Highway 18, where the fire intensity was pretty similar, but I haven't seen anything burn for the amount of time this burned. This burned for close to 12 or 13 hours. That is, what we call actively burning. It was moving wherever it wanted to go, and pretty much everybody was chasing after it. Whereas, it burned in different intensities up in San Bernardino.

**Alive!:** But nothing here in the City.

**Patrick Joyce:** Oh, nothing. I've never seen anything in the City of LA burn like this burned.

One of the things I would say about this fire is that, the two previous days, the fire weather was either extreme or critical. And this is like one of those things where all the stars were lined up, and this just happened to be for the worst. The relative humidity was low. Wind speed was about ten to fifteen miles an hour. It was a record temperature day in LA, about 89 degrees. So everything was set up for a disaster! And it just took one little thing to spark that.

You look at in the park, and the fire weather reaches that level maybe ten or 15 times a year.

**Alive!:** Put me up there with you.

**Patrick Joyce:** The main thing we noticed is the fire intensity. When I was working along Vista del Valle, it would get up into the trees, and then as soon as it started to burn in the trees, all the limbs would drop. And as you're working alongside the road, it's a real, real safety hazard. I mean, you're constantly worrying about the fire coming up, but at the same time, you're constantly worrying about the trees falling above you, the limbs and the branches. And then as the fire burns across the road and goes over the other side, if you're working there, then you have trees coming down behind you, and rocks coming down off the top of the hillside. There were times where it was 2:30 or 3 in the afternoon, and you couldn't see more than 20 feet, because of the smoke was so thick. So there were times when you just had to find a spot where you could sit, and just take a breath of fresh air if you could find it, and then go back to work.

**Alive!:** How hot was it? Intense?

**Patrick Joyce:** Yes, it was intense from the aspect that there's points where the fire comes up the canyon, where it gets very, very hot, and you can feel the radiant heat, standing 200 feet away. And then it passes through and it cools back off, but that happened over and over and over, over a period of about 12 hours. Where it would just come up another canyon, come up another canyon, and you would just move down the road trying to find a spot that you could work.

**Alive!:** There're still hotspots now. There're still places now that you're watching, I would imagine.

**Patrick Joyce:** There were two calls this morning [May 22]. There was one at 6:30 this morning of reported smoke in the Commonwealth area of the park, and then there was another one a few hours later.

**Alive!:** Thanks.

**Patrick Joyce:** You're welcome.

