





Everyday Heroes *in* Action

October Fires

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Everyday heroes were kept busy through the middle and end of October, putting out a number of fires fueled by dry brush and volatile Santa Ana winds.

The Club thanks to the everyday heroes who tackled the fires.

The Sesnon Fire

Fire broke out Oct. 13 in the Porter Ranch area near Chatsworth/Twin Lakes/Indian Hills, and were finally 100 percent contained about five days later.

More than 14,700 acres were burned.

Fighting the fire were everyday heroes from CAL Fire, the LAFD, LA County Fire Dept. and the Ventura Fire Dept. Other personnel included units from the California Highway Patrol, the National Park Service, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, the LAPD, Cal Edison, SoCal Gas, the Los Angeles County OES, and the CDCR. In all, some 1,377 firefighters, and 88 engines, 40 crews, 17 water tenders, eight dozers and two helicopters fought the blaze.

The Sesnon fire caused one reported death and major evacuations; 15 buildings and 63 outbuildings were destroyed; and 11 residences were damaged. The Sesnon fire was caused by a downed electrical line.

Damages to property were valued at \$12.6 million.

The Marek Fire

The Marek fire, near Little Tujunga, Kagel Canyon and Lake View Terrace, started Oct. 12 and burned more than 4,824 acres.

The cause and damage estimate have not yet been determined.

The following structures were lost during the firestorm on the morning of Oct. 13: Skyview Terrace Mobile Home Park: six residences damaged and 38 destroyed; Dexter Canyon, two residences damaged and two destroyed; Lower Lopez Canyon, one residence damaged, one commercial building damaged and two commercial buildings destroyed.

The Sepulveda Fire

On Oct. 23, 69 companies of LAFD Firefighters, seven LAFD rescue ambulances, one heavy rescue, four arson units, three rehab units, eight helicopters, seven EMS battalion captains, 16 battalion chief officer command teams, two division chief officer command teams, LAFD dozers, water tenders, a mobile command post, two CERT team coordinators, and companies from Los Angeles County, Orange County and State Office of Emergency Services Fire Departments, all under the direction of LAFD Assistant Chief Craig Fry, responded to a major emergency brush fire at the southbound 405 Freeway near Getty Center Drive in the Sepulveda Pass.

Firefighters arrived to find three to five acres of heavy brush burning uphill towards the southwest, being driven by high winds. Firefighters were deployed throughout the canyon areas to provide structure protection and prepare for the advance of the wind-driven fire.

Fortunately, an aggressive aerial assault by water-dropping helicopters and a coordinated effort by ground-based Firefighters limited the spread of the fire.

More than 400 Firefighters worked throughout the night, extinguishing the fire in just 7 hours and 25 minutes.

There were no reported injuries and no structures were damaged. The cause of the fire is under investigation. Approximately 100 acres were consumed in this fire.

