

DAMAGE SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

DISASTER CA24-6

SEPTEMBER 2024 LINE FIRE

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

Prepared by:
California Department of Transportation
Division of Budgets
Federal Resources Office

Introduction

This Damage Survey Summary Report (DSSR) has been prepared for submission to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in response to statewide wildfire events impacting San Bernardino County, which began on September 5, 2024. According to FHWA's Emergency Relief Manual (May 2013), the purpose of this DSSR is to “summarize the damage assessment and provide information and documentation for the FHWA Division Administrator to make a finding that a natural disaster or catastrophic failure has occurred within the intent of 23 U.S.C. 125.” The DSSR also “provides the Division Administrator with a basis to make a finding that the disaster is eligible for funding under the FHWA ER program.”

Damage Description

Beginning on September 5, 2024, the Line Fire began burning in San Bernardino County, spreading rapidly due to dry fuels, winds, lightning, high temperatures and continued critical fire weather conditions, impacting San Bernardino County. The fires have caused extensive damage to critical infrastructure and roadside facilities.

For the Line Fire in San Bernardino County, on September 7, 2024 a Governor's Proclamation was executed, a copy of which is included in this Damage Survey Summary Report.

The Damage Assessment Form (DAF) due date for this disaster is December 20, 2024. Given the anticipated timeframe of a corresponding Finding of Eligibility and the necessary work to complete damage assessment, it is anticipated that additional time will be needed. A Damage Assessment Form time extension to January 31, 2025, will be requested as part of the Emergency Relief application.

Damage Estimate

To date, the preliminary estimated cost to repair or reconstruct the damage to federal-aid highways in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 125 for the Line Fire is \$9.8 million for State damages and \$141,000 for Local damages reported at this time, subject to increase, and tracked individually.

In accordance with 23 CFR 668.105(j), the minimum \$700,000 threshold for event eligibility will be applied to each individual fire event identified under this Disaster.

Additional fire damages are expected to supplement this initial ER Application Letter requesting eligibility for ER funding through the DAF approval process. As state and local agencies assess damages, additional counties may need to be added to this Disaster via Supplemental ER Applications. Additional fires associated with this disaster event will be submitted under separate cover through a Supplemental ER Application Letter to determine eligibility for ER funding, if required.

Additional Information

The following attached information describes the statewide wildfire damage in additional detail:

- Governor's Proclamation (Line Fire - executed on September 7, 2024)
- State damage estimates (to date)
- FIRE incident information and sampling of news articles
- Pictures of reported damage

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SEPTEMBER 2024 LINE FIRE

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS on September 5, 2024, the Line Fire began burning in San Bernardino County and has since burned over 7,000 acres; and

WHEREAS the Line Fire has prompted evacuation orders and road closures, and continues to threaten structures, homes, critical infrastructure, endangered species, watersheds, and cultural and heritage resources; and

WHEREAS continued high temperatures throughout the day and night, dry conditions, and strong winds have increased the intensity and spread of the Line Fire, causing imminent threat to life, with an Excessive Heat Warning in effect in San Bernardino County; and

WHEREAS in response to a request from the Office of Emergency Services, the Federal Emergency Management Agency approved a Fire Management Assistance Grant to assist with the mitigation, management, and control of the Line Fire; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to the Line Fire in San Bernardino County; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by the Line Fire, by reason of their magnitude, are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8625(c), I find that local authorities are inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the damage caused by the Line Fire; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the Line Fire.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist in San Bernardino County due to the Line Fire.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. All agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Office of Emergency Services and the State Emergency Plan. Also, all residents are to obey



the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.

2. The Office of Emergency Services shall provide assistance to local governments, if appropriate, under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act, Government Code section 8680 et seq., and California Code of Regulations, Title 19, section 2900 et seq.
3. As necessary to assist local governments and for the protection of public health and the environment, state agencies shall enter into contracts to arrange for the procurement of materials, goods, and services necessary to quickly assist with the response to and recovery from the impacts of the Line Fire. Applicable provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code, including but not limited to travel, advertising, and competitive bidding requirements, are suspended to the extent necessary to address the effects of the Line Fire.
4. The California National Guard may be mobilized under Military and Veterans Code section 146 to support disaster response and relief efforts, as directed by the Office of Emergency Services, and to coordinate with all relevant state agencies and state and local emergency responders and law enforcement within the impacted areas. Sections 147 and 188 of the Military and Veterans Code are applicable during the period of participation in this mission, exempting the California Military Department from applicable procurement rules for specified emergency purchases, and those rules are hereby suspended.
5. The provisions of Unemployment Insurance Code section 1253 imposing a one-week waiting period for unemployment insurance applicants are suspended as to all applicants who are unemployed as a direct result of the Line Fire in San Bernardino County and apply for unemployment insurance benefits during the time period beginning September 5, 2024, and ending on the close of business on March 5, 2025, in San Bernardino County and who are otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.
6. In order to ensure hospitals, clinics, and other health facilities remain open, the Director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) may waive any of the licensing requirements of Chapters 1, 2, 8, and 8.5 of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code and accompanying regulations with respect to any hospital, clinic, other health facility, home health agency, or hospice agency identified in Health and Safety Code sections 1200, 1250, 1727, or 1746 that is impacted by the Line Fire. Any waiver shall include alternative measures that, under the circumstances, will allow the facilities to remain open while protecting public health and safety. Any health facilities or agencies being granted a waiver shall be established and operated in accordance with their disaster and mass casualty plan or emergency preparedness plan. Any waivers granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be posted on the CDPH website and shall be in effect only so long as necessary to address the direct impacts of the Line Fire in San Bernardino County.



7. In order to directly respond to the needs of impacted adult and senior care facilities, child care facilities, children's residential facilities, resource family homes, home care organizations, and other similar care facilities and care providers within the California Department of Social Services' (CDSS) jurisdiction, the Director of CDSS may waive any provisions of the Family Code, Health and Safety Code, or Welfare and Institutions Code, and accompanying regulations or written directives, with respect to the use, licensing, certification, registration or approval of care providers, facilities or homes within CDSS jurisdiction set forth in the California Community Care Facilities Act (Health and Safety Code section 1500 et seq.), Child Care Provider Registration (Health and Safety Code section 1596.60 et seq.), the California Child Day Care Facilities Act (Health and Safety Code section 1596.70 et seq.), Residential Care Facilities for Persons With Chronic Life-Threatening Illness (Health and Safety Code section 1568.01 et seq.), the California Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly Act (Health and Safety Code section 1569 et seq.), Medical Foster Homes for Veterans (Health and Safety Code section 1568.21 et seq.), Continuing Care Contracts (Health and Safety Code section 1770 et seq.), the Home Care Services Consumer Protection Act (Health and Safety Code section 1796.10 et seq.), and the Resource Family Approval Program (Welfare and Institutions Code section 16519.5 et seq.). Any waivers granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be posted on the CDSS website and shall be in effect only so long as necessary to address the direct impacts of the Line Fire in San Bernardino County.
8. In order to directly respond to the needs of behavioral health programs and facilities impacted by the Line Fire, including alcohol and other drug programs, adult alcoholism or drug abuse recovery or treatment facilities, driving-under-the-influence programs, narcotic treatment programs, psychiatric health facilities, mental health rehabilitation centers, social rehabilitation programs, skilled nursing facilities with special treatment programs, Lanterman-Petris-Short designated facilities, community treatment facilities, short term residential therapeutic programs, and children's crisis residential programs, the Director of the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) may waive any licensing, certification, or approval requirements for such programs under its jurisdiction set forth in Welfare and Institutions Code, Divisions 4, 5 and 9 and in Health and Safety Code, Divisions 2 and 10.5, and accompanying regulations, written standards, or information notices. Any waivers granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be posted on the DHCS website and shall only be in effect so long as necessary to address the direct impacts of the Line Fire in San Bernardino County.
9. Health and Safety Code sections 103525.5 and 103625, and Penal Code section 14251, requiring the imposition of fees, are suspended with regard to any request for copies of certificates of birth, death, marriage, and dissolution of marriage records, by any individual who loses such records as a result of the Line Fire in San Bernardino County. Such copies shall be provided without charge.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Proclamation.

This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the



State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 7th day of September 2024.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH. D
Secretary of State

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

STATE
DAMAGE ESTIMATES

State Damage Estimate CA24-6:

Caltrans Preliminary Major Damage Assessment REPORT (PMDAR)													
									9:00:00 AM				
									FHWA ER				
Count	District	Date of Incident	Event Name	DO (Y/N)	EA #	Verbal Approval Date	Main Damages	Work Description	County	Route	ER Potential Eligibility?	Cost Estimate	TOTAL COST TO DATE
1	8	9/7/2024	Line Fire	Y	TBD	9/16/2024	PVMT, MBGR, and signs	Repair PVMT, MBGR and Signs	SBD	330	Yes	\$9,800,000	\$ 9,800,000

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

SAMPLING OF NEWS ARTICLES

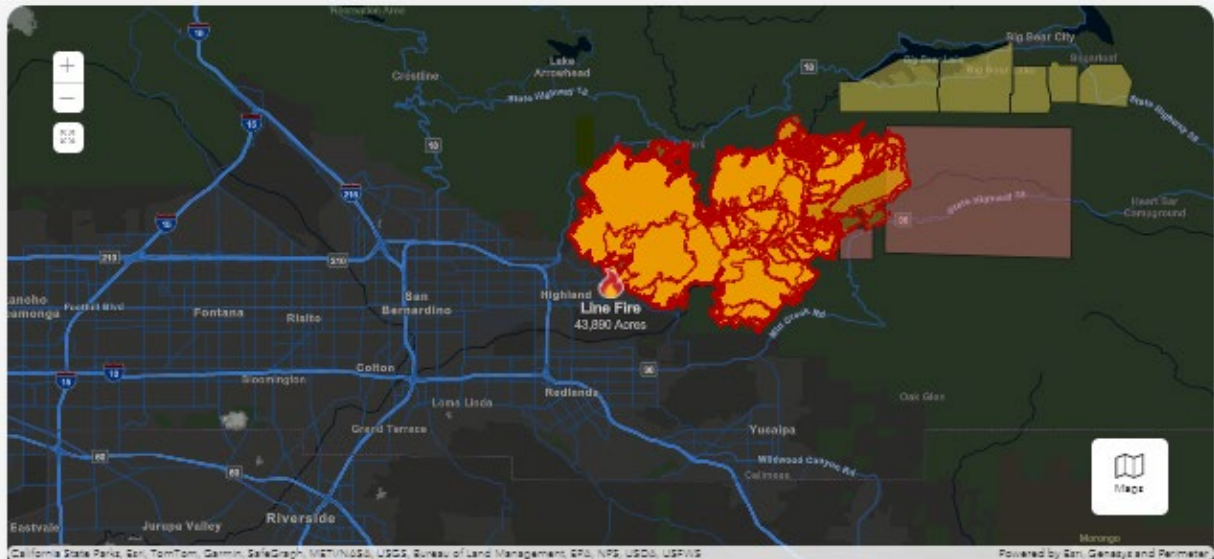


Home > Incidents > Line Fire

Line Fire



79% Contained | 43,890 Acres | 1 County: San Bernardino



LAYERS		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recent Perimeters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evacuation Orders and Warnings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active Air Assets
		<input type="checkbox"/> 5-Year Fire History
Date Started 09/05/2024 6:33 PM	Last Updated 10/02/2024 8:57 AM	Cause Arson

Situation Summary

INITIAL SITUATION: Forest Service Firefighters, along with firefighters from other agencies, including the City of Highland and San Bernardino County, responded to a reported wildland fire on Baseline Road at about 6:00 PM on September 5, 2024. Arriving engines reported several acres on fire and immediately requested more resources, including multiple additional fixed wing and helicopters.

Yesterday 10/1/24, there was a high heat advisory over the fire area which will remain in effect today. The most active fire behavior continues to be along the Santa Ana River drainage with fire moving up the drainage to Sand Creek on the north and also near the community of Pinezanita. Smoke may be visible to the community of Running springs from islands of fuel burning within the fire perimeter with no threat to the containment line.

10/2/24: The fire remains active along the eastern flank in the Angelus Oaks area as the fire burned up to Highway 38 just north of Angelus Oaks. Firefighting resources continue to use a direct suppression tactic on the Line Fire as firefighting resources continue to build containment lines along the fire's edge in an attempt keep the fire within its current footprint.

Crews will continue to access and extinguish fire in the Bear and Siberia creek drainage when safe to do so in this very steep area with the support from water dropping helicopters. Monitor and patrol tactics continue along the western and southern edges of the fire perimeter.

The closure orders for the forest remain in place.

CALIFORNIA

Line fire flare-up tips California over a grim milestone: 1 million acres burned in 2024



The Line fire burns near the Seven Oaks community in San Bernardino County, which was placed under an evacuation order Monday. (OnScene.TV)

By Clara Harter

The flare-up of the Line fire worsened Monday as evacuation orders expanded and firefighters lost some ground on containment of the San Bernardino County wildfire.

The new acres charred also pushed California across a grim milestone: 1 million acres burned in 2024.

The Line fire, which has been burning in San Bernardino County for almost a month, began spreading faster over the weekend due to unusually warm temperatures that sucked moisture from vegetation and the air, according to Cal Fire. Containment of the fire slipped from 83% to 78% as of late Monday.

LOCAL NEWS

In Line Fire, thousands in California's Big Bear Valley can return home while some evacuations remain

KCAL NEWS

By Marissa Wenzke
Updated on: September 23, 2024 / 10:33 PM PDT / KCAL News



Thousands fled their homes as [the Line Fire](#) tore through more than 39,000 acres and authorities arrested a man on suspicion of starting the massive Southern California blaze. A little over a week after the wildfire started on the evening of Sept. 5, thousands of residents in cities such as Big Bear Lake, Big Bear City and communities like Lake Arrowhead were allowed to return home. By Sept. 19, evacuation warnings in Big Bear were lifted and evacuated zoo animals were heading home after a temporary stay in the desert.

However, many mandatory [evacuation orders still remain in place](#).



By Sunday, it was estimated to be 39,232 acres and 75% contained, Cal Fire officials said. Early last week, the state fire agency said that 56,100 structures were at one point threatened, including 11,400 that were under mandatory evacuation orders and 44,700 facing evacuation warnings.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Line Fire in San Bernardino County



08-SBd-330– Typical Wildfire Damage

Line Fire in San Bernardino County



08-SBd-330– Typical Wildfire Damage