

# Santiago Fire

A nighttime photograph showing a large fire burning on a hillside, with city lights visible in the foreground and reflected in a body of water. The fire is bright orange and yellow, with thick smoke rising into the dark sky. The city lights are small, white and yellow dots, and their reflections are visible in the water. The overall scene is dramatic and captures the scale of the fire.

**October 21, 2007**



# Santiago Fire

Time of Alarm: 1755, Sunday, 10/21/2007

Fire Contained: 1800, Thursday, 11/8/2007

Acres Burned: 28,400 Acres

Homes Evacuated: 1,900 Homes

Weather Conditions: Red Flag Warning, Winds at 50 mph With Gusts to 85 mph and Low Humidity

Location: Santiago Canyon Road at Silverado Canyon Road

# Initial Dispatch

**Time of Alarm:**  
**5:55 PM, Sunday, 10/21/07**

**Initial # of Units Dispatched:**

- 10 Engines
- 1 Truck
- 3 Patrols
- 2 Dozers
- 3 Water Tenders
- 1 Helicopter
- 2 Handcrews
- 1 Type 3 Engine Strike Team (5 Wildland Engines)
- 1 Incident Management Team (6 Chief Officers)
- 1 Command Bus

**Spread 3 Miles in 15-20 Minutes Crossing the 241 Toll Road**





# Additional Immediate Resources

- Upon Initial Dispatch ECC - 1 Air Attack, 2 Air Tankers, and 1 Helicopter
- First Engine to Arrive on Scene - 10 Additional Engines
- First Chief Officer on Scene - 5 Type-1 Engine Strike Teams (25 Engines) into Irvine
- First Chief Officer on Scene Second Request - 5 Type-3 Engine Strike Teams, 6 Handcrew Strike Teams, and 3 Dozer Strike Teams

All Requests Made Within 10 minutes of Units Arriving on Scene



# Incident Priorities

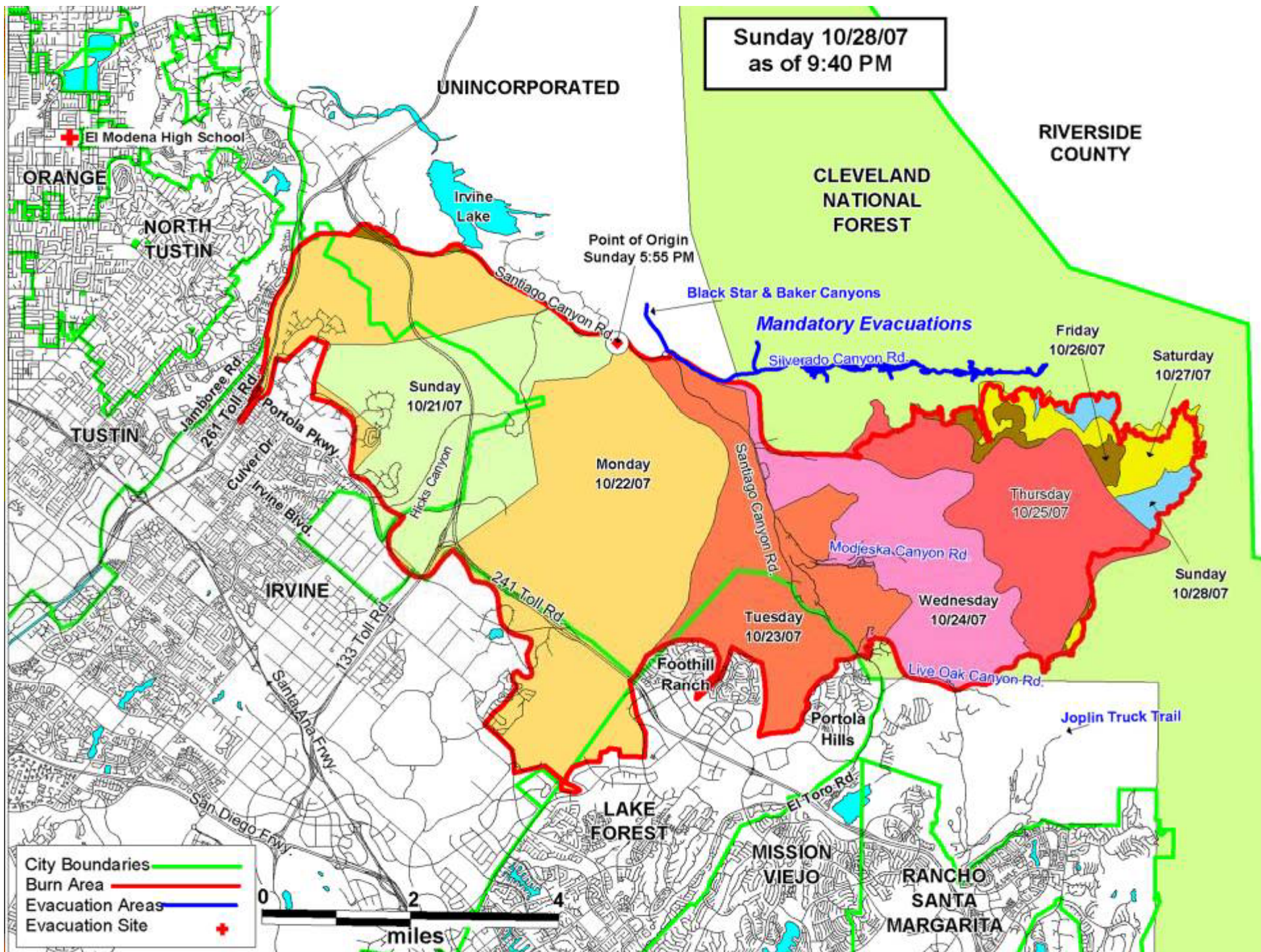
- Nobody Dies
- Nobody is Injured
- No Homes Destroyed
- Confined Fire to the Box



# Communities Threatened

## Approximately 1,900 Homes

- Irvine- Portola Springs, Northwood, Orchard Hills
  - Tustin Ranch- Cowan Heights, Lemon Heights
  - Lake Forest- Portola Hills, Foothill Ranch and Several Business Complexes near Irvine Blvd
  - Canyons- Silverado, Modjeska, Williams, Hamilton and Trabuco/Rose
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# Unified Command



Orange County Fire Authority



Orange County Sheriff Department



California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



United States Forest Service



Incident Management Team: Southwest Area Type 1  
National Interagency Management Team

# Fire Prevention Measures

- Defensible Space
- Non-combustible Roofs
- Non-combustible Construction Features
- Fuel Modification Zones



# Wildland Urban Interface Challenges

## WUI

- Steep Canyons
- Old Brush
- Combustible Construction
- Access Restricted
- Minimal Defensible Space





# Assisting & Cooperating Agencies

- Local Government Fire Departments (City, County, District)
- State of California Fire Resources (Cal-Fire, OES)
- Federal Fire Service (USFS, BLM, National Park Service, Bureau Indian Affairs)
- Out of State Fire Resources (AZ, NV, CO, WO, ID, NY, MT, UT, NM)
- Law Enforcement (Local, State, Federal)
- County of Orange (Sheriff, Animal Control, Parks, RDMD)
- Transportation Corridor Agencies
- Cal-Trans
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife
- National Weather Service
- California Department of Corrections
- California Conservation Corp
- School Districts
- Utility Companies
- Water Districts
- Fire Safe Council
- C.E.R.T. (15 cities)
- American Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- Local Ambulance Companies
- Private Vendors

More Than 250 Local, State, Federal, Private, and Non-profit Entities

# Community Volunteer Roles

- Canyon Watch
- Fire Safe Council
- CERT
- Red Cross



# Public Information



On Scene PIO

OCFA Media Center

OCFA Web Site

7,500 Calls per Day

1,400,000 Hits per Day

# Occupant Liaison Program

- Victim Assistance
- Escort Into Canyons
- OCFA
  - Fire Prevention
  - Chaplains
  - Trauma Intervention Program (TIP)
- Vehicles Donated by Ford





# Incident Costs

- Cost as of 11/9/2007: \$21,650,000
- Peak Fire Personnel Assigned: 1,941
- Cost Share Agreement
- OCFA Reimbursement Anticipated to be Approximately \$5 Million (90% of OCFA Costs)

# Fire Suppression Repair



- Coordination With Landowners
- Reduction of Damage

# Winter Season Risk Reduction

- Multi-Agency Effort
- Short Term Mitigation
- Long Term Mitigation





# October 2007 Fire Siege

22 Fires in 4 Days

7 Southern California Counties

Total Acres Burned 517,403

**Santiago Fire**

**L.A. County**

**San Bernardino County**

**San Diego County**

**15 Homes Lost**

**86 Homes Lost**

**446 Homes Lost**

**1722 Homes Lost**

# After Action Report



- OCFA Review

- Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission Task Force

