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For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE

STATION FIRE UPDATE... THE ROAD TO RECOVERY HAS BEGUN

(Fire 56% Contained...L.A. County Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management begins process of recovery...All American Red Cross Shelters Closed and Listing of Road Closures)

LOS ANGELES (Mon., Sept. 7, 2009 – 9 p.m.) – The Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has begun the process for the road to recovery in regards to the Station Fire. OEM and the County's Emergency Operations Center (CEOC) have been working since the onset of the fire to assess and meet the needs of the people who have been impacted by the fires. Initial efforts concentrated on the immediate needs of temporary care and shelter; in addition the following has initiated in support of long-term recovery efforts:

- OEM and Department of Public Works (DPW) have been working collaboratively with the Station Fire's Unified Command in obtaining damage assessment information, which will document the location and status (damaged or destroyed) of residences, commercial property and outbuildings/others affected by the fire. Also, OEM in coordination with the Sheriff's Department and DPW has requested an onsite State/Federal individual assistance team to perform a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA). A PDA is required step to obtain assistance.
- OEM has informed the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) of the County's intent to seek at a minimum, a disaster determination from the Small Business Administration (SBA) once supporting documentation is in place.
- To ensure that Local Assistance Center(s) (LAC) successfully functions as a "one stop shop" for recovery information, OEM is beginning the process of identifying organizations for the LAC. Locations and services available at the LAC will be announced following the results of the PDA.

The Station Fire, which started off of Angeles Crest Highway (SR-2) about one mile above Angeles Crest Fire Station around 3:30 p.m. on Aug. 26, has burned 157,220 acres and is 56 percent contained.

The fire is now the largest in Los Angeles County's recorded annals and is the largest in history of the Angeles National Forest. The forest was originally referred to as the Timber Land Reserve and was established in 1892.

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The Station Fire is also 10th largest fire in the State of California since 1932, and has burned more than 240 square miles of land within the Angeles National Forest and near surrounding foothill communities of La Canada-Flintridge, Altadena, La Crescenta, Acton, Aliso Canyon, Soledad Canyon, Pasadena, Mt. Wilson, Mt. Lukens, Sunland-Tujunga, Glendale and Sierra Madre.

The planned burn-out operation between Cogswell Reservoir and Mt. Wilson was cancelled for today. Fixed wing aircrafts concentrated on Sulfur Springs-Squaw Canyon Area. The western edge of the Station Fire is now lined from La Crescenta around to Mendenhall Peak. Patrols, mop-up, fire suppression repair will continue. Some repair work along this portion of the fire has been initiated. Direct attack line building will continue to the northward into the San Gabriel Wilderness. The current burning activity is well within planned control lines. The fire line from Newcomb Peak to Chantry Flats were improved during day operations. A structure protection group was in place in the Crystal Springs area. Air tankers and helicopters are committed for needed support on today's operation. A fire line is planned for completion from the east side of the San Gabriel River to Rincon Rd. Aggressive patrol and mop-up will continue along Angeles Crest Highway SR-2. The contingency fire lines are in place and while some of these lines will continue to be improved, most efforts will be focused toward direct attack (edge of the fire) actions throughout most of the firefighting operation on the eastern flank of the fire where prudent and safe.

Approximately 5,000 residences are threatened at this time, including 200 commercial structures and 2,000 out buildings and others. 78 residences and recreational cabins have been confirmed as destroyed. 86 outbuildings and other have been destroyed as well.

More than 4,687 personnel are working the fire.

10 injures have been reported. On Sept. 1, a firefighter working on the Station Fire in the Aliso Canyon area of Acton was overcome by noxious fumes.

The firefighter suffered respiratory arrest and was taken to a local medical facility for further treatment and evaluation. On Sept. 3, six firefighters were transported to a local hospital after being overwhelmed by unknown fumes in a different part of Aliso Canyon. The firefighters were treated and released.

Two Los Angeles County firefighters were killed on Aug. 30, as they were fighting the Station Fire. A memorial service for the two firefighters will take place at Dodger Stadium located at 1000 Elysian Park Way in Los Angeles on Sat., Sept. 12 (10 a.m.). Free parking will be provided. For more information, contact the Memorial Management Team at (323) 980-4280.

On Sept. 3, after forensic examination of the point of origin of the Station Fire, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles County Fire Department and U.S. Forest Service announced that the fire was caused by arson and a homicide investigation is underway. The investigation will be led by homicide investigators with assistance from the Sheriff's Arson/Explosive Detail, Los Angeles County Fire Department and U.S. Forest Service. There is no new information to report at this time. Any questions regarding this investigation should be directed to Homicide Lt. Liam Gallagher at (323) 890-5500.

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The Governor proclaimed a state of emergency for Los Angeles County on Aug. 28. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors proclaimed a local emergency on Sept. 1, due to the various wildfires.

NOTE: The Station Fire Incident Command Post is scheduled to move the fire command operations from Hansen Dam in Lake View Terrace to Santa Fe Dam in Irwindale (15501 Arrow Hwy., Irwindale 91706) sometime after the 6 a.m. morning briefing on Tue., Sept. 8. Staging Area for the Station Fire operations will take place the National Guard Armory in Azusa.

Cooperators:

- U.S. Forest Service (Lead Agency)
- U.S. National Park Service
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Los Angeles County Fire Department
- City of Los Angeles Fire Department
- City of Arcadia
- City of Monrovia
- City of Sierra Madre
- Glendale Fire Department
- Pasadena Fire Department
- CAL Fire
- Cal Trans
- American Red Cross
- Southern California Edison

Law Enforcement Agencies:

- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- Los Angeles Police Department
- California Highway Patrol
- Glendale Police Department
- Pasadena Police Department
- Sierra Madre Police Department
- Arcadia Police Department
- Burbank Police Department
- Azusa Police Department
- Monrovia Police Department

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Evacuations:

All residential evacuations associated with the Station Fire have been lifted at this time.

Area Closures:

The Station Fire closure area consists of all Angeles National Forest southeast of California State Route 14 and California State Route 138. Please be advised, road closures may change without notice.

Glendale: Deukmejian Wilderness Park

Angeles National Forest: An area closure of the southern portion of the Angeles National Forest is in effect until it is determined that it is safe to reopen the forest areas. For additional information on the closures, go to www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles/.

Open to Residents Only (May be subject to change without notice):

- Little Tujunga Canyon Rd. and Live Oak Campground
- Aliso Canyon Rd. at Y8
- Little Tujunga Canyon Rd. at ¼ mile north of the Wildlife Way Station

Road Closures:

- Big Rock Creek Rd. closed at Big Pines Rd.
- Hwy. 39 between San Gabriel Canyon Rd. and East Fork Rd.
- Big Tujunga Rd. at Angeles Forest Hwy.
- Aliso Canyon Rd. at Angeles Forest Hwy.
- Soledad Canyon Rd. at Indian Canyon Trail Head between Big Pines Hwy. and mile marker 26.7 north of Altadena
- Big Pines Hwy. at SR-2
- Cheney Trail Angeles National Forest gate (Loma Alta)

School Closures:

No closures reported at this time

Air Transportation:

Temporary flight restrictions are in place above the fire area

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American Red Cross Shelters (Closed):

- La Canada High School, La Crescenta Valley High School, Marie Kerr Park Recreational Center, Verdugo Hills High School and Golden Valley High School evacuation shelters are now closed.

Pet Evacuation Centers Open (Small Animals):

- **Pasadena Humane Society**
361 S. Raymond, Pasadena 91105
- **Baldwin Park Shelter**
4275 N. Elton St., Baldwin Park 91706
- **L.A. County Agoura Hills Animal Shelter**
29525 Agoura Road, Agoura 91301

Pet Evacuation Centers (Large Animals):

- **Antelope Valley Fairgrounds**
2551 W. Ave. H, Lancaster 93536 (boarding large animals)
- **Pierce College**
6201 Winnetka Ave., Woodland Hills 91301 (boarding horses, donkeys and mules)

L.A. County Departments:

- County Emergency Operations Center (CEOC) staffing managed by the L.A. County Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and L.A. County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Emergency Operations Bureau (EOB)
- Community and Senior Services (CSS)
- Department of Animal Care and Control
- Department of Mental Health (DMH)
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Department of Public Health (DPH)
- Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)
- Department of Public Works (DPW)
- Fire Department
- Housing Authority
- Internal Services Department (ISD)

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L.A. County Department of Mental Health:

The mental health department is offering six free crisis counseling sessions to the Station Fire victims, family members and children (Announced on Sept. 1 and may be subject to change without notice). The following mental health clinics are offering crisis counseling services:

- Antelope Valley Mental Health Center
(349-A Ave. K-6, Lancaster 93535 – 661-723-4260)
- Arcadia Mental Health Center
(330 E. Live Oak Ave., Arcadia 91006 – 626-821-5858)
- Palmdale Mental Health Center
(1529 E. Palmdale Blvd., Ste. 150, Palmdale 93550 – 661-575-1800)
- Santa Clarita Mental Health Center
(23501 Cinema Dr., Ste. 210, Valencia 91355 – 661-288-4800)
- San Fernando Valley Mental Health Center
(10605 Balboa Blvd., Ste. 100, Granada Hills 91344 – 818-832-2400)
- Valley Coordinated Children's Services
(Victory/Tampa Medical Square 19231 Victory Blvd., Reseda 91335 – 818-708-4500)
- West Valley Mental Health Center
(7621 Canoga Ave., Canoga Park 91304 – 818-598-6900)

For more information or after hour services, contact the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health's ACCESS Center at (800) 854-7771. The ACCESS Center is available 24 hours, seven days a week including all holidays.

L.A. County Parks and Recreation:

The following parks remain closed or restricted in use (May be subject to change without notice):

Crescenta Valley Park, Devil's Punchbowl, Eaton Canyon National Area Park, El Cariso Park/Pool (pending air quality reports...indoor activities only at the park), Pearblossom Park, Hansen Dam and William S. Hart Park (pending air quality reports).

Information on Los Angeles County Services:

- LA County.gov – Emergency Alerts and LA County 211
- Los Angeles Sheriff's Department www.lasd.org
- Los Angeles County Fire Department www.fire.lacounty.gov
- L.A. County Department of Mental Health ACCESS Center 1-800 854-7771
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Works <http://www.dpw.lacounty.gov>.
- For area closures and current evacuation information check out the Los Angeles County Fire web-site at <http://www.fire.lacounty.gov>. Click on: "Ready! Set! Go! For areas that may need to evacuate in the near future.

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Information on Los Angeles County Services (continue):

- In the event of an evacuation recommended by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, residents are urged to register their telephone and cellular numbers at Alert LA County <http://portal@lacounty.gov/wps/portal/alertla>
- To view a map of the fire areas, go to <http://gis.lacounty.gov/FireFlex/>
- American Red Cross 866-GET INFO or www.redcross.org
- www.inciweb.org reference "Station Fire."
- Twitter www.twitter.com/AngelesNF
- Facebook www.Facebook.com reference "Station Fire"

CONTACT: Ken Kondo, L.A. County CEO, Office of Emergency Management,
Program Manager and Public Information Officer, 213-792-5128
Deputy Don Malnumaleuna, L.A County Sheriff, 323-980-2204

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