

Aug. 14, 2009
Contact: David Ragsdale
805-756-6662

Cal Poly Swanton Pacific Ranch Touched by Lockheed Fire

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly's 3,200-acre Swanton Pacific Ranch in Santa Cruz County was briefly touched by the Lockheed Fire on Wednesday and has been evacuated.

Cal Poly was notified Thursday that the fire burned remote, brushy areas of the ranch in the Little Creek area. Wind conditions quickly moved the fire away from property, and there is no further damage or danger to the ranch.

An earlier report also indicated that the porch at the Staub House on the ranch burned. That incident was not related to the Lockheed Fire.

The ranch received an evacuation order for the area at approximately 10 p.m., Wednesday. Natural Resource Management professor Brian Dietterick followed the ranch emergency operation plan. Utilities were secured and locked, and all personnel and animals were moved to the ranch shipping corral area near Highway 1, which is outside the evacuation area.

All ranch inhabitants spent Wednesday night at the shipping corral, and it is still being used as an operation base. Ranch animals are in corrals at the location.

There are currently two classes being held at the ranch for 13 undergraduate students. Two graduate students work on the ranch.

Ranch staff includes four state employees and three Cal Poly Corporation (CPC) employees. Four state employees and one corporation employee remain at the shipping corral. The other two CPC employees don't live on the ranch and were instructed to stay home.

The area remains under evacuation order, and the ranch will remain vacant until the order is lifted.

For more information about Cal Poly's Swanton Pacific Ranch, visit <http://www.spranch.org/>.

For more information about the Lockheed Fire, visit http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=361.

Giving to Cal Poly

San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
805.756.1511
E-mail Public Affairs