Fire threat forces evacuation

May 18, 1994

THURSDAY

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WILDFIRE RAVAGES SLO COUNTY

Nearly 50,000 dormitory residents were evacuated Monday night as the Highway 41 fire erupted Sunday afternoon, threatening numerous San Luis Obispo County communities and the Cal Poly campus.

County fire investigators blame arson for the blaze, with an unidentified incendiary device found at the fire's origin, one mile north of the Cerro Alto campground along Highway 41 west of Atascadero.

No loss of life has been reported as a direct result of the blaze.

The fire has cut a path from Atascadero to the hills northeast of Lopez Lake.

Highway 101 at Cuesta Grade was closed Monday afternoon as flames jumped the asphalt in several locations, causing the rerouting of traffic through Highways 1 and 46.

Cuesta Grade was opened in both directions Tuesday at 10 a.m. with train movement restored at 11 a.m. by Southern Pacific Railroad officials. Highway 41 reopened Wednesday.

Gov. Pete Wilson offered a $50,000 reward Wednesday for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the arsonist. Wilson toured the Tassajara Creek area along Cuesta Grade, where 23 homes were destroyed, and also pledged assistance to those residents victimized by the blaze.

"More than anything else, I hope we find who did this," Wilson told reporters and Brooke Sinclair, a Tassajara Creek resident who lost his home in the fire.

"There has to be cooperation at all levels of government," he said. "We need to anticipate these tragedies before they happen.

The Lopez drainage area and the landscape surrounding the rural community of Pecho north of San Luis Obispo are still considered potential flare-up areas by the California Department of Forestry and U.S. Forest Service, which are directing firefighting efforts.

Lopez Canyon residents evacuated at approximately 4 p.m. Tuesday were allowed to return to their homes Wednesday as the fire's progress slowed near Santa Margarita.

The Toro Creek area near Atascadero is also being closely watched, with firefighters setting blazes behind the fire's front lines to deprive the advancing flames of potential fuel. No structures are at risk in this area.

According to Capt. Don Smith, CDF information officer, the fire was 85 percent contained as of 6 p.m. Wednesday with full containment expected Monday, Aug. 22, at 11 p.m.

"We got all the houses we could get (in Tassajara Creek) before the fire beat us out of here. We actually had to drive through the flames to get out. At every structure we could, we created black (burn) zones and some we couldn't because the fire was all around us."

Capt. Ed Dowling
California Dept. of Forestry

"We want to stop the forward progress of the fire before we actually put it out," Smith said. "It's going to burn itself out within the containment lines, and then we'll go in and control the fire from there."

Smith estimates that more than $300 million in structures have been saved by firefighters, with forestry crews concentrating on the hillside fires and city fire crews focused on structural preservation.

Temperatures reaching 108 degrees and rugged terrain slowed early firefighting efforts, but a midweek cooling trend provided a slight relief to firefighters operating on 24-hour shifts. Thirteen firefighters have suffered slight injuries, mostly heat exhaustion and twisted ankles.

Santa Margarita, portions of Atascadero, rural valleys, the Monterey Heights area of San Luis Obispo and the Cal Poly dormitories were evacuated late Monday.

See FIRE, page 8
Ruling party favored as Mexican vote nears

By Trina Kloist
Associated Press Writer

MONTERREY, Mexico — Here in Mexico's showcase for economic reform, poverty persists despite the flashy new high-rises and years of economic, social and political reforms.

But opinion polls indicate that the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, is likely to win the Aug. 21 presidential election anyway.

If PRI candidate Ernesto Zedillo wins, the party "will have to fulfill its promises. It will have to change," said historian Antonio Garcia de Leon of the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Zedillo and PRI candidates throughout the country are portraying their party, which has ruled Mexico for 65 years, as the only one that can provide the changes people demand while avoiding the violence they fear.

Zedillo has promised clean elections, a judicial overhaul and greater spending on social programs.

Yet nearly three-quarters of the metropolitan area's workers make less than $13 a day and 43 percent of adults have only a primary school education.

Even the area's relatively strong middle class has suffered from a two-year recession.

"Six years ago, I could afford to buy a blusa," said Tootsind-villa-Parredez Sam, 49, a housewife and long-time PRI supporter. "Now we barely have enough for food. There has to be a change." 

Opposition candidates Diego Venegas might explain why the PRI could win regardless of whether it keeps its promises.

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"I have no faith in Mexican democracy," said Venegas. "I am used to learning more about the president's office and my duties.

"Howard-Greene will be responsible for research on campus and California State University system issues as well as preparation of position papers and background information to assist Baker in his community, state and national activities.

"He was very savvy," Kamm said. "He can bring to this job the qualities that are needed to give President Baker the sage advice he needs from time to time in dealing with the university and the public." 

At the South Carolina campus, Howard-Greene also has taught anthropology and sociol

Howard-Greene selected as Baker's executive assistant

By Steve Lohman

Cal Poly President Warren Baker selected Daniel Howard-Greene as his new executive assistant.

Howard-Greene, director of planning and institutional research at the University of South Carolina-Lancaster, will begin his new duties Sept. 6. He succeeds Howard West, who passed away in June.

"I'm really excited about coming down and getting to know more people," Howard-Greene said. "I'm anxious to learn more about the president's office and my duties.

"Howard-Greene will be responsible for research on campus and California State University system issues as well as preparation of position papers and background information to assist Baker in his community, state and national activities."

"It's a lovely part of California," he said.

In his spare time, Howard-Greene enjoys hiking and reading and has become "a fairly avid recreational swimmer."

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SUMMER MUSTANG
End of a ‘Life’: Photographer Kauffman dies at 71

Former Cal Poly art lecturer set standard for news and sports magazine photography

By Brooks Richardson

This week, "Sports Illustrated" celebrated its 40th anniversary by reprinting the cover photograph from its first issue. However, the cover has become more than a way to remember the magazine's beginnings.

Although it was not specifically planned, it also remembers Mark Kauffman, the man that took that first photo and one of those behind the formation of the magazine.

The legendary photographer and retired Cal Poly teacher died of liver cancer Aug. 5, at his home in Pismo Beach. He was 71.

Kauffman taught at Cal Poly for eight years — up until his retirement in 1992.

"Everything he brought to the classroom was through the school of experience," said Chuck Jennings, chair of the art and design department.

He had tremendous wisdom and patience," he said. "And for a man of his background and experience, he was extremely humble.

If he was not so humble, Kauffman would have had a lot to shout about.

The photographer shot his first "Life Magazine" cover at age 17. He still holds the honor of being the youngest person to have his work grace the cover of the publication.

But that was just the beginning to an illustrious career.

"I would describe him as the most versatile photographers I've ever met," said Ginny Monteen, publications editor for Cal Poly and a friend and former student of Kauffman. "He was able to photograph a variety of areas.

One area on which he left his mark was sports photography. Kauffman revitalized the field by being the first to use telephoto lenses from ground level to make viewers feel like they were part of the action.

"Things we're used to seeing today we've got because Mark visualized them first," Monteen said.

He was not only known for his photos of sporting events.

"(K) is (a m n) was a storyteller," Monteen said. "He had the ability to grasp the human interest element (with) his photos.

In the spring 1988 issue of "Cal Poly Today," Kauffman is quoted as saying, "If I take a picture, it has to communicate and make some sort of impact. A photo will go in the wastebasket if people can't relate to it.

"You can't just take snapshots," he said. "They really have to be dynamic pictures.

Kauffman captured this dynamic aspect along with public interest with the pictures he took for the numerous photo essays he created, including two for "Life" that won awards.

His essay on Marine boot camp, which he spent seven weeks documenting, was the basis for a movie starring John Wayne.

"I don't think he ever said, 'This can't be done,'" Howell said. "He was one of the most dedicated, inventive photographers I've ever met.'"

Many came to Kauffman for "See Kauffman, page 7" in "Cal Poly Today.

Mark Kauffman, left, took this picture in 1952. "On the last stop in a long day ofding, I heard from the driver of the press bus that local people were all excited. They'd been predicting lighting candles and singing happy birthday to Eisenhower. None of the press knew this was going to happen. So when I got to the auditorium, I went backstage. Sure enough, the lights went out and I got the picture that no one else did. The rest of the press was down in the orchestra pit shooting flashbulbs while I shot this whole scene with natural light."

— Cal Poly Today

Settle declares SLO mayoral bid

Cal Poly political science professor and city councilmember Allen Settle officially announced Aug. 16 he will run for mayor of San Luis Obispo.

"I want to have an open, balanced government that implements the entire general plan," Settle said. "I don't believe my opponent, looking at her previous record, will do that."

Settle specifically cited land use and development policies.

Penny Rappa, city councilmember and mayoral candidate, responded by saying, "The general plan is an ongoing process, and I'm sure the next council will implement other aspects to it."

"Councilman Settle has been around since 1976," Rappa said. "If he was going to do something aggressively, he would have done it before."

A San Luis Obispo resident for more than 24 years, Settle has run for city office five times. A former member of the environmental review committee, he also served as chair of the planning commission as well as president of the County Area Council of Governments and the Chantel County Division of the League of California Cities.

Some of Settle's goals as mayor include encouraging full citizen participation in the government, providing moderation and balance in economic and environmental policies, and promoting business retention and higher paying jobs.

If Settle wins, the remaining four council members will decide on his replacement. Settle will continue to serve the remaining two years of his term if he does not win.

Regardless of the outcome, Settle emphasized his responsibilities at Cal Poly will remain the same.
Some burning thoughts about the blaze

"Nobody was really leaving my neighborhood so I didn’t bother to pack. I went up in front of Cuesta College (to watch the fire.) We were using binoculars — it was kind of dramatic. It seemed like it was going to spread out. You could see embers — kind of like little fingers — popping up. It seemed even closer than (the smoke said it was.)"

Mark Gelovich
Graphic Arts freshman

"A gentle rain in the next few months will work a lot of water on the hills to create a much better crop with more nutrients for the wildlife."

Natural Resources Management Professor

"It will probably take six months (for the land to rejuvenate). It depends on the rain we get."

Tim O’Keefe
Natural Resources Management Professor

"The fire is a positive thing because the brush gets too old. When the brush rejuvenates itself, there will be a much better crop with more nutrients for the wildlife."

Professor Tim O’Keefe
Natural Resources Management Professor

"The vegetation in California is oriented to fire. It is geared to respond positively to fire. Fire is part of the natural environment. Most of the trees will sprout back."

Sharon Sando
Soil Science junior

"How the land rejuvenates itself depends a lot on how quickly the fire burned. If the fire burned the slowly, the heat is more intense on the soil and can affect its growth. In a fast-burning fire, there is more damage to the vegetation because it covers a wider range of land, but it has less effects to the soil."

"The fire is a positive thing because the brush gets too old. When the brush rejuvenates itself, there will be a much better crop with more nutrients for the wildlife."

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"T"
Evacuation centers provide comfort
American Red Cross establishes homes for displaced residents

By Cordelia Raddey and Heather Clarke

Shortly after the Highway 41 Fire threatened homes and residential areas, the American Red Cross established emergency evacuation centers in Atascadero and Arroyo Grande.

The South County Regional Center in Arroyo Grande and the National Guard Armory in Atascadero were quickly converted to Red Cross shelter areas late Monday afternoon, each ready to accommodate up to 200 people displaced by the fire.

Twelve evacuees from the San Luis Obispo area were checked into the Arroyo Grande shelter Monday night.

"Some of those who came in were Cal Poly students," said shelter manager Jim Davis.

Cal Poly students were forced to evacuate campus dormitories late Monday night.

"They were here for awhile, then found other places to stay with friends, or possibly family," Davis said. "We really didn't have that many people, we were just sitting here waiting."

Davis explained that evacuees were registered by Red Cross volunteers who took the name, address and other pertinent information from displaced individuals. The evacuees were then given a kit that contained some personal hygiene items in case they didn't have time to gather belongings before leaving. A nurse was also on duty at the shelter to meet any medical needs.

Captain Lloyd Hasfield, commanding officer at the armory in Atascadero, said many volunteers offered to help.

"The National Guard provided the grounds and security, and the Red Cross organized everything else," he said. "We've been getting a lot of phone calls from people volunteering — people with rooms to offer and places for animals and vehicles. We had one man stop by on his six hour drive up to the Bay Area. He brought 40 gallons of water and asked what he could do."

Disaster Training Officer Harold Veyag said.

"What amazed us was the number of people that showed up asking what we needed or what they could do," Veyag said. "We had far more people walk in to offer their help than we could use. We ended up taking down names and numbers and telling them we would call if we needed more help."

The overall morale of the volunteers was excellent. The people using the evacuation centers' services were very grateful that the Red Cross was there to help. But knowing that their homes and possessions were possibly burning, their minds frames were a bit confused and they were understandably upset.

Volunteers just wanted to help.

"We just tried to make (the evacuees) as comfortable as possible," Davis said. "We provided a cot to sleep on, an eating area and food that we purchased from local merchants." Volunteers offered to help.

"We determined what is most needed," Davis said. "We can issue vouchers that are as needed, like means to pay for groceries, clothing, medicine, tools or rent," he said. "We're trying to help these people start over and begin the healing process.

The high school is a staging area for fire crews heading out to fight the Highway 41 blaze / Photo by Tim Vincent
Social Distortion to play for 18-and-over crowd

Punk band tours to promote newest album

By Joshua Pruett

A punk band, by any other name, still plays just as fast, and San Luis Obispo is about to get a visit from one of Los Angeles' best.

Social Distortion plays at the Graduate Sunday to an 18-and-over crowd. Social Distortion, one of the only punk bands to have survived the conservative 80's, set itself apart from the rest of the faster-than-hell bands by making its melodies as important as its speed and aggression, trademarks of the punk scene.

The band's founder and songwriter, Mike Ness, described a press release the direction Social Distortion was heading when he formed the band in 1979.

"The thrash bands were a step backwards," he said. "The music I wanted to do was a mix of blues, country and Roanames-y punk."

Recording independently until the release of the band's 1988 breakthrough album, "Prison Bound," the group signed with a major label and toured with the likes of Neil Young.

At first I thought opening for Neil Young was a strange idea," Ness said. "But after the first show, all I saw was a little, white noise. It was the first time I remember a band of this magnitude not being the main attraction."

Baston's second album cover

This time around, Social Distortion is the main attraction.

Local band Peter Will will be opening with Cradle of Thorns and Jay Roayle.

The Social Distortion show will be one of only a few live shows this year at The Graduate restaurant.

Dino Gianomazzi, one of the promoters of the event, explained that a band of this magnitude demands a lot of room.

"We've already sold about 500 tickets . . . but we can sell 700 to 800," he said.

Trying to find a place in San Luis Obispo that holds a large crowd, sole alcohol and can admit fans under 21 is difficult, Gianomazzi said.

"The thrash bands were a step backwards," he said. "The music I wanted to do was a mix of blues, country and Roanames-y punk."

Mike Ness

Social Distortion Founder

"The Grad is good because they can sell alcohol and put up the partition (between the bar and the restaurant) and still let the over-18 crowd in."

Social Distortion is stopping in San Luis Obispo to promote the recent release of their album, "ST.

"Somewhere Between Heaven and Hell."

"This record has a theme," Ness said in the release. "It's like a soundtrack to those old teenage exploitation films — biker-hot-rod-rock'n'roll-marijuana-orgy films. And it's about love. Dangerous, desperate love."

Reggae star performs in Santa Maria

Pato Banton relays "positive messages" and "irresistible melodies"

By Cordelia Rackley

Entertainer Pato Banton, known internationally as a reggae phenomenon, will perform live at The Strip in the Santa Maria Airport Hilton tonight at 8 p.m.

Banton is considered a reggae musician with the ability to take his music into the mainstream. He has established his prominence in the genre, according to a press release issued by his record company, I.R.S. Records.

"His positive messages and consciously-conscious lyrics are set to irresistible melodies which continue to earn him new fans with each concert and each (new) record," the release stated.

"We're really looking forward to this show. Pato has such a positive effect on audiences. He's a great crowd pleaser . . . he involves you and you come away feeling happy. He's wonderful," said Mary Kay Kidd, Promotions Manager.

Pato Banton and The London All Stars

Baston is the master of ceremonies for his DJ show, V-Rocket. This provided him with his first opportunity to record a single called "Hello Tosh, Go A Tush." It was this release that was discovered by local talent manager John Maurer, one of the most dynamic reggae showmen in the area.

Banton got his start as a part-time Reggae disc-jockey, with his first opportunity to record a single called "Hello Tosh, Go A Tush." It was this release that was discovered by local talent manager John Maurer, one of the most dynamic reggae showmen in the area.

This single is a "bouncy, exciting" tune from his album, "Pato And Roger A Universal Love," released on I.R.S. Records.

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"These are Not Fall Colors

"Ballade 41," Dillon's final piece of the performance, "takes the listener through different emotions," he said. Dillon may be the right one to lead the listeners through this changing music and emotion.

A review in the Telegram-Tribune on July 14 said, "Dillon (is) a remarkable musician of generous talent and enormous energy. With such abundant pianistic talent at so young an age, Dillon can become a first-rate virtuoso."

Dillon certainly hopes this is true. After graduating from the Peabody, he hopes to go to Vienna to study music.

"If not, I may just go out and start teaching and (enter) some competitions," he said. "But in the end, I'd like to do a combination of teaching and performing."
From page 3
just those reasons, including
not only for his excellent work
but also with
the 1970s.
photography for "Playboy"
cover."
Time, Inc. He was behind the for­
lustrated,"  "Money" and "Dis­
owns, including "Sports Il­
mation of many successful
was rewarded
He was also the director of
for students. Those who knew
him will remember him for his
way with students.
"When I heard about his
death, I felt like my father had
died," Jennings said. "He was
like a father to most of us in the
department."
Not only to fellow teachers,
but also to his students.
"With his students, it's ob­
vious that he cared more about
them than he did about himself,"
Howell said. "He was totally
dedicated to teaching the stu­
dents and totally dedicated to
their success."
Kauffman brought a wealth of
practical, professional experience
with him to every class he
attended. "He brought his
love of photography to the class­
room that was contagious.
"When you took a class from
Mark, you wanted to run outside
and take as many pictures as you
could because you wanted to
see pictures," Monteen said.
"Cal Poly was extremely fortu­
tune to have him."
"He inspired you."

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Monterey Heights resident Harold Missel, who lives on the ranch, said he called the fire department around 2 a.m. Tuesday as the fire approached his house.

"They soon had 10 (fire) trucks out here," Missel said. "By deliberately setting backfires to burn up fuel for the fire, firefighting crews were able to save the 1,700-acre ranch from any severe damage and prevent the fire from traveling further south towards Monterey Heights."

The residence halls were reopened Tuesday morning. Residents fought the fire on the Mission Ranch and around and some we couldn't be contained.

"(But) we wouldn't have any CDF people around us all," Ketcham said. "We were doing it all on our own at the time." He said the group received no direct help from the California Department of Forestry until about 7 a.m., when Ketcham met up with four CDF bulldozers.

Ketcham's crew, its bulldozer and the CDF bulldozers put a fire break around Cal Poly, above the Poly 5" and south to Highway 101.

Ketcham, state employees Mark Klever and Vern Lupers and a group of 10 student assistants fought the fire on the Mission Ranch and near the Petersen Ranch, some working for 36 hours straight.

Ketcham said vice President for Administration and Finance Frank Lebacks, Director of Public Safety Services Joe Risser and Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture Walter Ketcham had a command post on campus that helped direct his crew, and keep them apprised of the needs of the campus.

Dowling said firefighters have received an outpouring of generosity and support from community members throughout the affected area.

The support we have been receiving has been overwhelming," Dowling said. "Every five minutes, people have been coming around bringing us snacks, water, sandwiches and all sorts of stuff. We appreciate it very, very much.

Firefighters stressed the importance of clearing brush around homes as a means of protecting homes from potential destruction.

"We only have an outside shot at stopping the fire if people don't clear around their structures," CDF firefighter Jud Ream said. "All of the brush piles around some of the homes made things dangerous.

Dowling said fire crews were aware of the Poly crew, and Ketcham said he was thankful for all that the firefighters did accomplish. He seemed especially proud of Cal Poly's efforts.

According to Ketcham, CDF might have set fire lines much further into campus, allowing acres of Cal Poly foliage to be lost.

Approximately 1,000 acres of Cal Poly land were consumed by the fire, but no Cal Poly structures were lost.

Ketcham said the most damage for the university took place on the Serrano Ranch. "We just couldn't get over there to that one," he said, "and it burned all the way down to the sheep pasture. That's probably our worst loss."

Ketcham said when you work for Cal Poly, it's kind of like your own ranch. You take care of it. "We could have just backed off and let CDF do it," he said. "But we wouldn't have anything left."

"This guys deserves a lot of credit," Ketcham said. "It was tiring, but you never really felt tired until it was over."

"When you think about what you did, you feel pretty good about it," he said. "We stuck it in there together and worked at it."

The efforts of 19 Cal Poly staff members and students placed a large part in the fight to keep the Highway 41 fire away from university land and structures.

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Gary Ketcham
Farm Supervisor
Approximately 1,000 acres were lost, and no Cal Poly structures were damaged.

Farm crews assist firefighting efforts

Bulldozers carve fire lines around campus

By Matt Clawson
Sawnee Self Writer

The efforts of 19 Cal Poly staff members and students placed a large part in the fight to keep the Highway 41 fire away from university land and structures.

Farm Supervisor Gary Ketcham organized a plan early Tuesday as Montoro and Morro Bay.

"I got some of my farm crew," he said. "We got the bulldozer and the grader out and made a fire line around our Mission Ranch."

"Then the winds came up and really started to take off," Ketcham said. "We headed for the south and made some more fire lines. Then we watched the fire just take off.

"It kept coming toward us," he said. "And then about 2 o'clock I got a call from (Director of Public Safety Services) Joe Risser about needing a bulldozer back (at Cal Poly)."

They soon had 10 (fire) trucks out here," Missel said. "By deliberately setting backfires to burn up fuel for the fire, firefighting crews were able to save the 1,700-acre ranch from any severe damage and prevent the fire from traveling further south towards Monterey Heights."

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"When you think about what you did, you feel pretty good about it," he said. "We stuck it in there together and worked at it."

The Highway 41 blaze is the largest in the county since the 1985 Las Pilitas fire scorched more than 75,000 acres between Santa Margarita and Lopez Lake.

"We didn't have any CDF people around us all," Ketcham said. "We were doing it all on our own at that time."

(When) you work for Cal Poly, it's kind of like your own ranch.

"You take care of it. We could have just backed off and let CDF do it."

"But we wouldn't have anything left."

Gary Ketcham
Farm Supervisor

Approximately 1,000 acres were lost, and no Cal Poly structures were damaged.

Farm crews assist firefighting efforts

Bulldozers carve fire lines around campus

By Matt Clawson
Sawnee Self Writer

The efforts of 19 Cal Poly staff members and students placed a large part in the fight to keep the Highway 41 fire away from university land and structures.

Farm Supervisor Gary Ketcham organized a plan early Tuesday as Montoro and Morro Bay.

"I got some of my farm crew," he said. "We got the bulldozer and the grader out and made a fire line around our Mission Ranch."

"Then the winds came up and really started to take off," Ketcham said. "We headed for the south and made some more fire lines. Then we watched the fire just take off.

"It kept coming toward us," he said. "And then about 2 o'clock I got a call from (Director of Public Safety Services) Joe Risser about needing a bulldozer back (at Cal Poly)."

They soon had 10 (fire) trucks out here," Missel said. "By deliberately setting backfires to burn up fuel for the fire, firefighting crews were able to save the 1,700-acre ranch from any severe damage and prevent the fire from traveling further south towards Monterey Heights."

The residence halls were reopened Tuesday morning. Residents fought the fire on the Mission Ranch and near the Petersen Ranch, some working for 36 hours straight.

Ketcham said vice President for Administration and Finance Frank Lebacks, Director of Public Safety Services Joe Risser and Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture Walter Ketcham had a command post on campus that helped direct his crew, and keep them apprised of the needs of the campus.

Dowling said firefighters have received an outpouring of generosity and support from community members throughout the affected area.

The support we have been receiving has been overwhelming," Dowling said. "Every five minutes, people have been coming around bringing us snacks, water, sandwiches and all sorts of stuff. We appreciate it very, very much.

Firefighters stressed the importance of clearing brush around homes as a means of protecting homes from potential destruction.

"We only have an outside shot at stopping the fire if people don't clear around their structures," CDF firefighter Jud Ream said. "All of the brush piles around some of the homes made things dangerous.

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