

The first department-wide recall of the off-duty platoon since 1943, during World War II, brought on duty almost the total manpower of the department. Almost every member of the Los Angeles Fire Department was involved in this fire in one way or another. He may have been on the fire lines; transporting men, equipment, or supplies; or fighting fires in other parts of the City. The best estimate of number of men on the fire lines at any one time is four hundred.

Many times firemen found themselves in strange surroundings, working at strange jobs.

A veteran Salvageman suddenly found himself involved in the operation of a pumper in a relay operation;

a Truckman pulled more hose than he believed existed;

a Boatman shoveled madly.

Everybody doing a terrific job and giving credit to everyone else. Even "Hillmen" complimenting "Flat-landers"--and vice versa.

The recall of the off-duty platoon was probably the greatest single factor in the control of the fire. It not only provided reliefs for men on the fire line, but permitted the manning of relief apparatus for active duty to fill vacated engine houses. In at least one instance, this additional manpower was used to good advantage. It eliminated the need for calling for help to handle a king-sized water sweep, the result of a ruptured main in a large department store.

### COMMUNICATIONS

The Signal Office was a busy place throughout the fire. Dispatching and routing so much equipment, and knowing at all times the location of the equipment, was a mammoth problem of communications. Besides dispatching to the big fire, assignments had to be made to other fires, since by no means was there a "fire holiday" in appreciation of the big one. Business calls through the Signal Office were also necessarily considerably more than normal.

Some variations from normal operations had to be made to handle this unusual situation. For example, some Engine Companies equipped with two triple combination apparatus were split and ran as two separate engine companies. Relief apparatus were pressed into service so that even though thirty engine companies were in on the fire, only thirteen engine houses were vacant, and most of these were in areas where coverage could be made quickly.

One of the big differences between this fire and the one of 1938 was the increased and more accurate communications facilities, particularly radio. Most of the apparatus in on the fire were radio equipped. In addition, twenty-eight "handie-talkies" were in service, some of which were brand new from a shipment just received and quickly unpacked for service.

Although a second radio frequency is licensed for fire department use, the system as yet has not been completely installed due to lack of necessary equipment. However, this second frequency was used to great advantage by Radio Service technicians in checking coverage and coordinating repair services without interfering with the heavy air traffic on the existing frequency.

A communications center was established at Base Camp, from which all Signal Offices could be contacted by radio. Although the Base Camp was not located in the best area for radio reception, effective radio communications were maintained at all times with occasional relaying of messages either from unit to unit, or with the help of the Signal Office always ready to complete contacts over dead spots.

The transmission and receiving of radio messages at the Base Camp were by means of "Junior's Casket." This portable emergency unit got its name from the fact that, when closed and ready for transporting, it looks like a small gray casket. Although this unit has been available for emergencies for some time, this is the first time that it has been used at a major fire. The set is a basic mobile unit stepped up to sixty watts, giving it about twice the power of the conventional mobile unit. It can be operated from an A.C. power supply, a three and one-half K.W. portable generator, or storage batteries. Added reception quality was obtained from an antenna thirty feet high.

Radio Service used its station wagon service car equipped with complete radio repair facilities and supply of spare parts. Servicemen were kept busy correcting breakdowns of equipment which was to be expected with apparatus in continuous operation over rough terrain. Many of the difficulties were traced to loose connections due to excessive vibration.

### SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE

Supplying food at a fire of this magnitude and duration presents a problem of planning and timing. Getting a hot palatable meal to hard-working firemen on time and in adequate amounts is hard enough under normal conditions, can you imagine the difficulties under the stress of this critical brush fire?

Supply and Maintenance, charged with the responsibility of arranging for and delivering an adequate food supply, did a terrific job under adverse conditions. Over two thousand hot meals, more than one thousand sandwiches, and hundreds of dozens of doughnuts and sweet rolls were served to hungry fire fighters. Apples, cakes, cookies, vegetables, salads, and many, many cartons of cold milk were available and consumed. How much coffee? It may have been enough to put out the

The food bill came to \$5,746.70, much more than the department is budgeted for this purpose. As a matter of fact, this sum amounts to about a five year allotment. Thus, emergency funds must be appropriated by the City Council to satisfy the bill collectors.

Less mechanical troubles developed than was anticipated in an operation involving more than a hundred vehicles in rough usage. Only three major mechanical breakdowns required apparatus to go off-duty for an extended period of time. These involved a Tank Wagon with clutch trouble, a Triple Wagon with clutch trouble, a Triple with transmission trouble, and a tractor with a damaged tread.

Several apparatus were damaged by fire, most of which involved minor damage to paint. However, a Hose Wagon was severely damaged and a Buick sedan was almost a complete loss when caught in a sweeping fire running over the Green Verdugo fire road near the junction of the Sherman Grove fire road.

Department mechanics were kept busy with minor mechanical troubles such as replacing radiator hoses, making carburetor adjustments, and correcting electrical system difficulties. Less trouble developed from battery failures than was reasonable to expect with apparatus running steadily and lights and radios in almost continuous use. Six to twelve batteries were either being charged by portable charging units, or in transit to apparatus to prevent delaying shutdowns. The dual battery set-up on later model apparatus proved very helpful in reducing shutdowns due to discharged batteries.

Very little pump trouble developed, and those that did were not serious. Careful and complete routine maintenance by operators is undoubtedly an important factor in the efficiency and reliability of apparatus under extended and rough operating conditions.

Damage to hose through bursting and loss due to fire was relatively minor considering the hazards and strenuous use to which the hose was subjected. The Storeroom delivered 5,000 feet of one and one-half inch hose to the fire to augment that carried by the various companies. The Hose Carriers also provided hose sorely needed at critical points. Hose and equipment was quickly supplied to fully equip seven relief triple combination apparatus for active service. Three of these triples responded to the fire.

### **INJURIES**

Many injuries were suffered by firemen. Unfortunately, the life of Auto-fireman James Catlow was taken when he and other firemen were caught in a wicked trick of the fire sweeping over Green Verdugo fire road. Witnesses say that the action of the fire at this point was in effect a fire storm. About one hundred firemen reported injuries to the Receiving Hospital, about half of which were recommended off-duty. For the most part, firemen were treated for foreign bodies in the eyes, but injuries also included minor scratches, burns and poison oak infection.

Help from other agencies was outstanding. Police work in traffic control was a masterful job which permitted the movement of fire apparatus without undue interference. The Red Cross established evacuation centers at schools and churches to help the many people who were forced to leave their homes for their own safety. The Board of Education was most helpful in making available their facilities for a fire department base of operations. Public utilities, especially the Department of Water and Power were always available and ready to handle any problem that arose in connection with their installations.

This was a big fire--it was a terrible fire--it was an educational fire. Every fire department employee was involved in some way whether actually on the fire lines, or in the background planning and coordinating the many phases of such a large scale operation. Without the close cooperation and earnest effort from every sub-division of the department, the results could have been even more serious. This was a fire where every man had a chance to display initiative--the initiative that saved many a home when the odds were in favor of its burning. This was a fire experience that will be talked about for a long, long time. Here firemen proved themselves, and others were made. This is the Los Angeles Fire Department.

---

**Navigating  
The Archive:**

[The Volunteers](#)|[Era of the Horses](#)  
[Chief Engineers](#)|[History of the Black Firemen](#)  
[Fire Apparatus](#)|[Fire Boats](#)|[Famous Fires](#)  
[The Last Alarm](#)  
[HOME](#)



---

## News Release

U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey

Release  
Oct. 30, 2003

Contact  
Gloria Maender  
Jon Keeley

Address  
Office of Communication  
119 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192

Phone  
520-670-5596  
559-565-3170

Fax

---

# USGS Research Indicates Fire Suppression and Fuel Buildup are Not Responsible for Shrubland Fires in Southern California

With the loss of life and property being experienced in the fires that have burned out of control in four Southern California counties, research by the U.S. Geological Survey on fire in the region reveals that to effectively manage fires to help prevent loss of life and property in Southern California shrublands, it is essential to understand the natural role of fire in chaparral ecosystems.

Large, high-intensity fires sweep the landscape in this region each year, threatening lives and homes, as is occurring with such devastation in this area. Ecologists have long known that chaparral ecosystems burn extensively and often, and that much of the dominant vegetation in these systems is highly adapted to a fire-prone environment. Many native plants here have seeds that require fire to germinate, or need the kind of disturbed habitat fires leave behind to grow. It was long thought that fire suppression played the same role in chaparral shrublands as it has in forests, creating a build-up of fuels that can eventually lead to more destructive fires.

“Past fire suppression is not to blame for causing large shrubland wildfires, nor has it proven effective in halting them,” said Dr. Jon Keeley, a USGS fire researcher who studies both southern California shrublands and Sierra Nevada forests. “Under Santa Ana conditions, fires carry through all chaparral regardless of age class. Therefore, prescribed burning programs over large areas to remove old stands and maintain young growth as bands of firebreaks resistant to ignition are futile at stopping these wildfires.”

In recent studies Keeley and his colleague, C. J. Fotheringham of the University of California, Los Angeles, analyzed historical records for counties dominated by shrublands subject to periodic high-intensity wildfires, from Monterey County in the north to San Diego County in the south. They found that although fire suppression is critical to protect homes, buildings and other structures, fire suppression does not prevent large wildland fires in southern California shrublands because these fires usually occur with powerful Santa Ana winds that blow at high speeds from the desert to the coast. In the present fire, hot Santa Ana winds of over 60 mph greatly increased the intensity and the movement of the fire. These winds occur each autumn, at the time when natural fuels are driest.

A close analysis of state fire records reveals the real story, said Keeley. Since 1910, chaparral fires have become more frequent as the human population has grown but fire size has not increased. The researchers found that large, intense fires were equally common in the years before widespread fire suppression as today, and do not appear to be the result of fuels build-up. In this highly fire-prone ecosystem, suppression efforts appear not to have greatly altered patterns of fire incidence. Keeley notes that the greater financial cost of fires today is most likely the result of constant urban expansion into areas subject to frequent burning.

For example, written documents reveal that during the 19th century human settlement of southern California altered the fire regime of coastal California by increasing the fire frequency. This was an era of very limited fire suppression, and yet like today, large crown fires covering tens of thousands of acres were not uncommon. One of the largest fires in Los Angeles County (60,000 acres) occurred in 1878, and the largest fire in Orange County's history, in 1889, was over

The main ignition source of chaparral wildfires under natural conditions is lightning, but lightning-ignited fires are of an order of magnitude fewer in coastal ranges than in interior ranges of California and much of the western United States, said Keeley. Keeley hypothesized that before the arrival of humans, the majority of area burned occurred at overlaps of summer and autumn weather events. Small lightning-ignited fires of summer occasionally persisted until the arrival of autumn Santa Ana conditions. Such fires then rapidly increased in size and might continue to burn until winter rains finally doused them.

*Note*

Most fires in California shrublands are human-caused, and the beginnings of human influence on the natural fire regime date to pre-Columbian peoples, who used fire to convert the dense shrubland to a more open mosaic of shrubland and grassland, long before the arrival of Euro-Americans, said Keeley.

Fotheringham and Keeley noted that that throughout much of the shrubland landscape humans play a dominant role in promoting fires beyond what was likely the natural fire cycle. Future fire management, they said, needs to take a strategic approach to prefire fuel manipulations and move beyond evaluating effectiveness strictly in terms of area treated. Fire management should consider designing strategies tailored to different regions, as there are marked differences between the central coastal region and southern California in source of ignition, season of burning, and historical patterns of population growth and burning.

In terms of management implications, the fire researchers note that:

- The contemporary fire regime in these shrublands mirrors the natural crown fire regime far more than is generally accepted and that catastrophic crown fires may be an inevitable feature of this landscape.
- There may be little justification for using fire for resource benefit, since vast portions of shrubland landscape currently experience a higher-than-normal fire frequency.
- While landscapes managed by rotational prescription burning may contribute to easier containment of fires burning under moderate weather conditions, they are of limited value during severe weather such as the Santa Ana winds causing such destruction to life and property now.
- Limited and strategically placed prescription burns are the most cost-effective way to help prevent large catastrophic wildfires in southern California chaparral habitat.

The USGS serves the nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life.

To receive USGS news releases go to [www.usgs.gov/public/list\\_server.html](http://www.usgs.gov/public/list_server.html)

\*\*\*\* [www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov) \*\*\*\*

---

USGS Home page  
Index of USGS News Releases

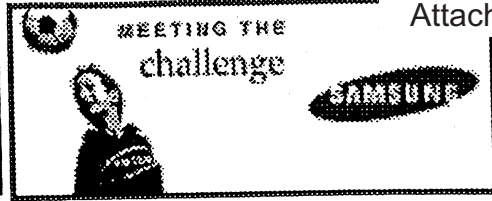
---

U.S. Geological Survey, MS119 National Center, Reston, VA 20192, USA  
URL [http://www.usgs.gov/public/press/public\\_affairs/press\\_releases/pr1805m.html](http://www.usgs.gov/public/press/public_affairs/press_releases/pr1805m.html)  
Contact: [hfriesen@usgs.gov](mailto:hfriesen@usgs.gov)  
Last Modification: 10-31-2003@11:02am(HF)



# U.S. NEWS

STORY PAGE



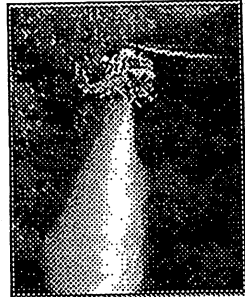
- HOME
- U.S.
- WORLD
- WEATHER
- SPORTS
- SCI-TECH
- TRAVEL
- STYLE
- SHOWBIZ
- HEALTH
- EARTH
- CNN**
- All Politics
- CONTENTS
- HELP
- FEEDBACK
- SEARCH



## Santa Ana winds whip up Southern California fires

October 22, 1996  
Web posted at: 1:30 p.m. EDT

MALIBU, California (CNN) -- Wildfires continued to burn out of control in Southern California Tuesday, stirred by the first of the seasonal Santa Ana winds whipping over mountain passes from the Western deserts.



The helicopters drop 2,500 gallons of water each time they release a load. (CNN)

Since Monday, at least four fires have destroyed more than 80 homes, forced thousands to evacuate, and scorched more than 20,000 acres of brush land. Two fires -- one in the northern San Diego County suburb Carlsbad and the other threatening celebrity-laden Malibu in Los Angeles County -- burned out of control Tuesday.

### In this story:

- [Malibu threatened](#)
- [Schools evacuated](#)
- [Annual hazard](#)
- [Related stories and sites](#)



Fires blazed through Carlsbad, California early Tuesday morning. (CNN)

Officials in Carlsbad called in a platoon of Marines from Camp Pendleton to battle the blaze in the posh seaside community where some 60 homes were destroyed by a fire fueled by oily eucalyptus trees.

"We're writing off the houses

Cnh: d. & n.

getting to the ones we can save," said Fire Battalion Chief Sonny Hilliard in Carlsbad. "We're overwhelmed. Most of the area has already been evacuated."

Officials allowed some Carlsbad residents to return to their homes Tuesday, but issued a new evacuation order for San Marcos, a retirement community just east of Carlsbad.

Carlsbad's city dump was also ablaze Tuesday morning, drawing some manpower away from the city's residential areas. Carlsbad was the site of the worst fire-related injury so far, a man hospitalized with burns over 45 percent of his body and a firefighter who suffered a broken neck when his firetruck collided with another vehicle.

### **Malibu threatened**

Near Malibu, some 2,500 firefighters worked overnight to prevent a repeat of 1993's Santa Ana season, when wildfires that began in brush surrounding the city swept through residential areas dotted with homes of the rich and famous. More than 260 structures were destroyed.

"We've been very fortunate this time so far," said Sarah Maurice, a spokeswoman for the city, noting that the Santa Ana winds had not been as strong as usual. "I believe we've only lost three structures, and that's 265 less than we lost in 1993."

The flames threatened nearby Pepperdine University, Maurice said, but firefighters prevented the blaze from reaching the campus.

Some sections of Malibu have been evacuated, she added, including an emergency center set up for evacuees, but so far the fires have not seriously threatened residential areas.



Firefighters enjoyed an early morning breakfast after fighting fire all night (Courtesy KTLA)

### **Schools evacuated**

On Monday, thousands of children in area schools were evacuated, including A.E. Wright Middle School in nearby Calabasas, where flames crept to within 200 feet of the building.

"It was pretty sooty and you could see the flames as the kids were getting on the bus," said sixth grade science teacher Joe Major.

daybreak to resume more intensive firefighting efforts.

Officials had not determined a cause of either the Carlsbad or Malibu fires.

A separate fire in the exclusive Lemon Heights section of Orange County destroyed or damaged 29 homes Monday. The blaze was sparked when a wind-toppled tree snapped power lines. The fire, which covered a 2-square mile area, was controlled four hours after it began.



Pepperdine University students were evacuated Monday night. (CNN)

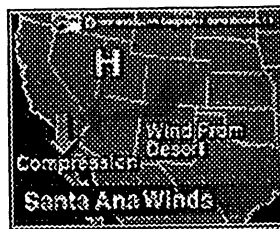
A fourth fire, started in a refuse pile, destroyed one home and destroyed or damaged several other structures while torching nearly 40 acres near Chino. Firefighters took nearly 12 hours to get the blaze under control.


### Annual hazard

Santa Ana winds occur each fall in the western United States when dry desert winds, triggered by high pressure systems, push to the west and pick up speed as they squeeze through narrow mountain passes and canyons.


---

### CNN's Valerie Voss Explains Santa Ana Winds




 Desert winds come into Southern California

(12 sec./256K [AIFF](#) or [WAV](#) sound)

 Warm and dry air conditions

(14 sec./320K [AIFF](#) or [WAV](#) sound)

 Mountains cause acceleration of wind

(10 sec./224K [AIFF](#) or [WAV](#) sound)

---

Under dry conditions in Southern California, the winds fan autumn wildfires and create dangerous, volatile conditions. The region's last spate of such fires was in 1993, when 26 major fires killed four people and destroyed or damaged over 1,200 structure, causing nearly \$1 billion in damage.

In 1991, a raging wildfire in the Oakland hills killed 24 people, injured 148 and destroyed 3,000 houses and apartments.

*Correspondent Greg Lamotte, The Associated Press and Reuters contributed to this report.*

---

**Related stories:**

- [Southern California feeling wildfire heat](#) - October 22, 1996
- [Wildfires roar in southern California](#) - October 21, 1996
- [Businesses reopen after latest Big Sur blaze](#) - October 21, 1996
- [Fire spreads in California national forest](#) - October 11, 1996
- [Fire burns out of control near Big Sur](#) - October 9, 1996
- [California fire nearly contained](#) - September 2, 1996

**Related sites:**

*Note: Pages will open in a new browser window*

- [Pepperdine University: Fire Information](#)
- [National Daily Fire Situation Report](#)
- [National Interagency Coordination Center](#)

*External sites are not endorsed by CNN Interactive.*



Tell us what you think!

You said it...



© 1996 Cable News Network, Inc.  
All Rights Reserved.

[Terms under which this service is provided to you.](#)





The world has changed since you woke this morning

[Sign in](#) | [Register](#)

Go to: [Guardian Unlimited home](#)

**Guardian Unlimited Guardian Unlimited**

[Home](#)   [UK](#)   [Business](#)   [Online](#)   [World dispatch](#)   [The Wrap](#)   [Weblog](#)   [Talk](#)   [Search](#)  
[The Guardian](#)   [World News guide](#)   [Arts](#)   [Special reports](#)   [Columnists](#)   [Audio](#)   [Help](#)   [Quiz](#)



## Santa Ana Winds Fan California Fires

Sunday October 26, 2003 11:31 PM

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The wildfires burning across Southern California draw much of their strength from the fiercely hot and dry winds known as the Santa Anas.

[Gephardt Urges More Gov't Aid for Alerts](#)  
4:31 am

Santa Ana winds are formed when a high pressure area forms over the Great Basin, the vast expanse of desert that covers much of Nevada, Utah and southern Idaho.

[Court Tosses Suit Vs. Barbie Lamponer](#)  
3:46 am

That forces cool, dry desert air toward the southwest. There, the winds plunge down through the mountains of Southern California, channeled by steep terrain toward areas of comparatively lower pressure.

[Appeals Court Tosses Barbie Lawsuit](#)  
3:46 am

As the winds whistle through canyons and valleys of the mountains that separate the desert from the coastal strip between San Diego and Santa Barbara, the air is compressed and heated as it descends, sometimes dramatically. The winds also pick up speed as they travel toward the coast.

[Ex-USC President Sentenced to Three Years](#)  
3:46 am

The winds dry out vegetation and sap the air of humidity, creating the potential for destructive fires.

[Another Flood Victim Found in California](#)  
3:46 am

If a fire does break out, the Santa Anas only further fan the flames. Gusts of up to 70 mph are not uncommon.

[Obituaries in the News](#)  
3:46 am

The Santa Ana winds typically blow between September and February.

[At Least 100 Vehicles Vandalized in Ohio](#)  
3:31 am

The winds were named by settlers in the area of Santa Ana, a city 40 miles southeast of Los Angeles.

[Man Who Killed Self, Kids Probed on Abuse](#)  
3:31 am

[Dean, Clark Lead](#)  
3:31 am

DAILYNEWS.COM JOBS CARS HOMES CLASSIFIEDS NEWSPAPER ADS SUBSCRIBE PERSONALS M

**dailynews.com**  
**NEWS Angeles**

**GET THE BUSINESS GOLD CARD**  
(AND A DECISION IN LESS THAN 60 SECONDS.)  
FIRST YEAR FEE-FREE **APPLY NOW**

HOME NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS LA LIFE OPINIONS HEALTH FILM SEARCH INFO

December 30, 2003  
Los Angeles, CA

EMAIL ARTICLE LINK TO ARTICLE PRINT ARTICLE

Article Published: Sunday, October 26, 2003 - 9:55:50 PM PST

Site Search

Enter search term

Advanced Search

- Newsletters
- Classifieds
- Place an Ad
- Automotive
- Employment
- Real Estate
- Rentals
- Newspaper Ads
- Obituaries
- Archive Search
- Business
- Business Directory
- Antelope Valley
- Columnists
- Crossword
- Film
- Food
- Good Sports
- Health
- Horoscopes
- Info
- L.A. Life
- Marketplace
- News
- Opinion
- Personals
- Santa Clarita
- Simi Valley
- Special Sections
- Sports
- Sports Challenge
- Subscriber Services
- Traffic Report
- Travel
- U-Entertainment
- Weather

## Dry weather, vegetation equal disaster

By WILL MATTHEWS  
STAFF WRITER

Everything that could have gone wrong has.

For firefighters battling to bring under control the western flank of what has become a 67,000-acre wildfire that stretches across the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains from La Verne to San Bernardino, the combination of raging winds and parched vegetation has proved devastating.

"Most of the time, we can get on top of these kinds of fires and successfully beat it back," said Bill Peters, spokesman for the California Department of Forestry. "But this time, obviously, has been a bit different. The whole fire sequence has conspired against us. Every piece of the disaster puzzle has fit squarely into place. You take away any one of the components that have made this fire so hard to fight, and maybe we get on top of it. That has not been our reality, unfortunately."

Firefighters have been pummeled since the fire's outset Tuesday by a set of circumstances that have forced them into the defensive, chasing the fast-moving flames in desperate — and ultimately futile — attempts to gain the upper hand.

Prevailing drought conditions that have plagued the area for several years left the wilderness of the San Gabriel Mountains foothills dry, and provided perfect fuel for the fire that has far outpaced the efforts of firefighters.

The Inland Valley was hit with several consecutive days of unusually low humidity immediately preceding the start of the fire, sapping what little moisture remained in the area's vegetation.

And then there were the Santa Ana winds, which, blowing at as much as 70 mph in some places, clinched the firefighters' defeat.

"We have kind of escaped in recent years, even though this kind of possibility has existed, because of the drought conditions that we have experienced," Peters said. "Last year, the winds never really picked up in the ways that we have seen this year. And even though the Santa Anas have been relatively moderate overall, even moderate winds, when combined with a fire as powerful as this, can cause problems. They can act as a blowtorch."

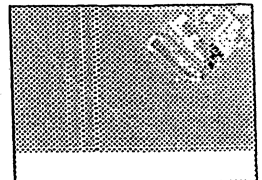
The fire started Tuesday in the Hunter's Ridge area north of Fontana, deep in the foothills.

Instead of starting high in the mountains and slowly making its way down toward the valleys at a pace that would allow firefighters to quickly gain control, it sped up the mountains and out of control before anyone could adequately respond.

"It raced up and took off toward the top of the hill, and it took more than two hours to get there," Peters said. "Because

### RELATED

- Oct. 30:**
- Picture of spectator confuses family
  - San Antonio Heights Albertsons to reopen
  - Juvenile probation camps survive fire
  - Serendipity, preparedness favor fire victims
  - Fire Facts: October 31, 2003
  - Closing in on containment
  - Children entertained at evacuation center
  - Claremont blames water company for burned homes
  - Fire victim remains critical
  - Fire victims urged to contact insurers
- Oct. 29:**
- Grand Prix Fire facts, Oct. 30
  - Fires exacerbate budget crunch
  - San Diego County blaze kills firefighter
  - Fires force Schwarzenegger to cut D.C. trip short
  - Fire-weary SoCal residents head north
- Oct. 28:**
- MOUNTAINS AFIRE
  - Grand Prix Fire statistics
  - Simi Valley blaze takes winding path
  - Red Cross switches focus to damage assessment
  - San Deigo community, Julian destroyed in fire
  - Residents of Palmer Canyon return to ruins
  - Major Southern California wildfires, Tuesday
  - Donations accepted for fire victims
  - List of closures, cancellations and resources
  - Aim of gov.-elect's D.C. visit turns grim
  - Smart business people assist firefighters
  - San Antonio Heights resident angry over loss



Your next car is here!

Motorway.com  
Next Exit

Make  
Acura

Model  
Any Model

New  Used

Search

kicked up and added the forceful component that just allowed this fire to get out of control."

In the end, there was little firefighters could do in the face of the weather and geographic realities that posed such grim challenges, Peters said. Despite the destruction the fire has already caused, the salvage of many homes in Fontana, Rancho Cucamonga and Upland should be looked at as significant victories, he said.

"Nobody can console those people who have lost their homes," Peters said. "In any other situation, if the fire is not as intense as it has been, then maybe we get to it and beat it. But sometimes, no matter how hard you try, nature just destroys what man builds. It has been the intangibles of this situation that have allowed for that to happen."

*Will Matthews can be reached by e-mail  
atw\_matthews@dailybulletin.com or by phone at (909) 483-9333.*

home  
- Mt. Baldy man runs home to pick up valuables  
- San Antonio Heights residents make stand against the fire  
- La Verne residents cast wary eye to hillside  
- Shut-eye a rare commodity for firefighters  
- Firefighters create buffer to protect Crestline

**Oct. 27:**

- Many feel victory, but some lost  
- Investigators release sketch of Arson suspect  
- Deadliest fires in more than a decade  
- Listings of homes and other structure lost to fires  
- Tree-trimmer hero  
- Fires most expensive, destructive in decades  
- Health officials warn those with heart, lung diseases to be cautious outdoors  
- Edison crews working to restore lost power  
- List of closures, cancellations and resources  
- Fires wreak havoc on events

**Oct. 26:**

- S.B. airport becomes home for evacuees  
- Lytle Creek couple rescues dog  
- Humidity will rise slightly in coming days  
- Mountain towns eerily empty  
- Rancho family fights fire with construction tankers  
- Minister loses home while consoling others  
- Even the most powerful hoses were no match for the wind  
- The mail must go on  
- The making of a monster fire  
- San Antonio Heights star shines for the last time  
- Fire ravages Palmer Canyon  
- Centers provide more than just shelter  
- **WHAT'S CLOSED:**  
Monday  
- Grand Prix Fire facts  
- Blazes disrupt Southland flights  
- Firefighters save historic Padua Hills Theater  
- 35-mile-long fire front consumes an estimated