Big Sur Fire Pre-Attack Plan

Zone 2 Response Area | 24,000 Acres | 166 Structures



- Fire Hydrant
- Gate
- Hazard
- Address Point
- Helispot
- Fire Station
- Dirt Road
- Paved Road
- Pool
- Water Tank
- TRA
- Bridge
- Repeater
- Ambulance
- Driveway
- Trail

CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET

Map Disclaimer: Big Sur Fire 2021 © All rights reserved.
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Information within is intended as a graphical representation of field conditions;
the actual location of features in the field may differ from the depiction on the map.

Created by TiGEO ® for Big Sur Fire
CalFire Wildfire Pre-Attack Mapping Grant
18-FP-BEU-2129 - 2019-2021

1:45,000 3/14/2021





Partington Ridge & Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park

OPERATIONAL & SAFETY BRIEFING

MISSION/COMMAND ORGANIZATION
- Command (Incident Commander/immediate supervisor)
- Leader's intent
- Specific tactical assignments

STRUCTURE DEFENSE
- Most homes have above-ground utility lines and/or solar systems.
- If firefighters are in danger by staying to protect structures, application of Class A foams or gels by engines or helicopters and retardant application by air tankers around these structures will be necessary. Firefighters may need to ensure the residents have left, apply foams and gels, and then leave the area and return after the fire front has passed to extinguish any residual fire.
- Defensive firing out around structures may also be an option.
- Obtain Incident Commander or Operations Chief approval before conducting firing operations.
- Firing needs to be carefully coordinated with adjoining resources to not cut off escape routes and send head fire toward other structures or firefighters.
- Limit firing operations to the minimum amount of fire necessary.

COMMUNICATIONS
- Communication Plan
- **LRA - Utilize Command Frequency** 31-A (Point Sur) or (Post Ranch) and tactical V-Fire 23 or Tac 41 for operations.
- **SRA - Utilize Command Frequency** BEU East Tone 6 and tactical CDF Tac 4 or V-Fire 23 for operations.
- **FRA - Utilize Command Frequency** LPF Forest Net Tone 15 (Manuel Peak), 13 (Anderson Peak), 8 (Cone Peak) and tactical LPF Tac 3 or 4 for operations.
- Radio communication is generally good but maybe intermittent in isolated locations.
- Cell phone reception is generally good in the Big Sur Valley area (Zone 1), however south of that area (Zones 2/3) service is poor and may be intermittent.

SERVICE/SUPPORT
- Aviation Operations
- Logistics (e.g., fuel, transportation, supplies, equipment)

RISK MANAGEMENT
- Identify known hazards and risks

GENERAL SAFETY
- Brief crews on Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones.
- Keep hydrated, watch crew members for signs of heat stress.
- Coil a short, 1 ½" charged line with a fog nozzle on your engine for crew safety and quick response.
- Keep 50-100 gallons of water in tank for crew protection.
- Identify hazards with Hazard Flagging Tape (powerlines, propane tanks, outbuildings containing chemicals or ammunition).

SITE AREA HAZARDS
- Ingress and egress routes pose critical complications for firefighters entering and civilians exiting on the same roadways.
- Safe areas for firefighters and civilians are limited.
- Identify control measures to eliminate hazards and reduce risk.
- Brief crews on the resource considerations for the area.
- Identify trigger points for disengagement or reevaluation of the operational plan.

WHEN TO GET OUT!
- Fire is making sustained runs and you have inadequate defensible space based on the length of the observed flames
- Your water supply will not outlast the fire threat
- More spot fires than you can suppress
- Fire intensity dictates leaving the area immediately
- Roof is 25-50% involved
- Interior fire is established beyond capability of a 1 ½" line or available water supply
- You can no longer ensure compliance with LCES

BIG SUR FIRE
EST. 1974

RESPONSE ZONE 2

BIG SUR COAST AREA PRE-ATTACK PLAN

SERVING BIG SUR SINCE 1974

Big Sur Fire
47911 HWY 1
Big Sur, CA 93920
Non-Emergency Line
(831) 667-2113
In an Emergency
Please Dial 911

Wildfire PreAttack GIS Mapping
CalFire Grant 18-FP-BEU-2729

CAL FIRE

GENERAL PLAN
The Big Sur Pre-Attack is based on the assumption that a wildfire not contained with the initial attack forces and minimal augmentation of resources, will be an immediate threat to lives and property in the Big Sur area.
- Fire history for the area indicates the potential for large and damaging fire in this area.
- Big Sur Fire protects an estimated 106,600 Acres with 750 structures along 72 miles of Highway 1.
- Big Sur Fire has (3) Three Response Zones with multiple planning areas within each map.

Zone 1 - Big Sur Valley, Clear Ridge, Pfeiffer Ridge, Rancho Rico, Post Ranch, Ventana and Coastlands Areas

Zone 2 - Anderson Creek, Esalen, Dolan Ridge, Santa Lucia Ranch, Big Creek & Lopez Point

Zone 3 - Lucia, Hermitage, Mill Creek, Pacific Valley, Plaskett Ridge, Willow Creek, Treebones, Gorda & Salmon Creek

OBJECTIVES
1. Protect the lives of the public and firefighters.
2. Protect residences and structures using aggressive perimeter control tactics.
3. Plan for and develop a potential Structure Protection Group to conduct reconnaissance, prepare structures for structure defense and assist as needed with the protection and evacuation of citizens if perimeter control cannot be achieved.

GENERAL COMMAND CONSIDERATIONS
- Most of Big Sur is FRA with the Highway 1 corridor being LRA and the remaining portions are SRA.
- The early designation and use of incident facilities such as Staging Areas and Temporary Refuge Areas are critical due to the narrow and poorly maintained road structure. The Incident Commander may exercise the option to shelter residents in place or evacuate as the incident dictates.
- Temporary Refuge Areas (designated on the map) should not be used in lieu of evacuation.
- Ingress and egress routes pose critical complications for firefighters entering and civilians exiting on the same roadways.
- Communications in the area are challenged; most areas have limited to no cellular coverage. Radio coverage may be poor in some areas.

SPECIFIC COMMAND CONSIDERATIONS
Demographics
- The Big Sur area has a mix of commercial establishments consisting of hotels, restaurants, service stations as well as single family residential development, ranches, recreational campgrounds and cabins. Many of the residences are used as vacation or weekend homes. There is a large influx of tourism on weekends and holidays, specifically during the summer months, in both Zone 1 and Zone 3 response areas.

Structures
- The Big Sur area is a mix of medium to high value, single family residences, ranch homes, barns and cabins, intermixed with hotels, restaurants and service stations.
- The community of Big Sur is situated on large parcels of land ranging from 10-240 acres, with some parcels in the thousands of acres. These parcels are intermixed in and around FRA and SRA lands spread over 60 miles of coastline and Highway 1.

Access
- Many homes are accessed by tight, narrow gated driveways with little to no turnaround area.

Fuels
- The fuels along the Big Sur Coast are generally thick redwood stands, moderate to thick oak woodland and heavy chapparal/brush.
- Dead to live ratio meets or exceeds 50%.
- Live fuel moisture levels of less than 60% are considered critical. Live fuel moisture ranges from 120% in April-May to less than 60% in August-October.
- **EXPECT RAPID RATES OF SPREAD!** Flame lengths can range from 12-50 feet during normal conditions.

Topography
- The topography of the Big Sur area is steep, mountainous terrain with deep ravines and drainages. Elevations range from sea level to 5,000 feet on the ridge tops. Many of the major drainages are in direct alignment with the prevailing Northwest (NW) wind.

Weather
- Weather is generally warm and dry during the day with good humidity recovery at night above and below the inversion layer helped by the coastal onshore flow. Fire activity can be increased during the nighttime operational period within the inversion layer, especially above 800 feet in elevation. The wind typically shifts out of the east (offshore) and becomes warmer and drier after sunset. Recent fire history has shown significant fire activity after 0100 hrs. The marine layer consistently reduces fire spread and intensity below 500 feet in elevation.
- Summer daytime temperatures are generally in the high 70's to low 90's. Winds are generally out of the W/NW 5-15mph, strengthening in the afternoon to 25mph and diminishing before dark. The winds then switch to a more E/NE offshore flow after dark and subsiding before sunrise.
- Local winds are upslope/up-canyon during the day and downslope/down-canyon at night.
- Coastal and inland winds can differ drastically over a short area.

Water Resources
- No municipal water companies or resources exist in Big Sur.
- Water systems are numerous throughout the Big Sur area and are typically 2,500+ gallon water tanks with a 1 ½" or 2 ½" wharf head connection. Most waters systems are gravity fed.
- Other water sources such as static water sources for helicopter dips and portable pump/ drafting operations can be found throughout the Big Sur area and are a mix of natural and constructed ponds or pools.

EVACUATION CONSIDERATIONS / ROAD CLOSURES
4. Should the Incident Commander decide to order and "evacuation" or "shelter in place" in a portion of the area, the following items should be considered:
- If evacuation or sheltering in place is necessary, it needs to be ORDERED EARLY and communicated early!
- Identify and use routes of travel for all vehicles and coordinate with law enforcement and public works, and consider the establishment of an Evacuation/Law Enforcement Group.
- Assign a Public Information Officer to any evacuation shelter(s) as soon as possible.
- Consider animal evacuation needs.
- Many of the homes have some vegetation clearance however they are built of non-fire resistive materials, situated above chimneys and saddles with inadequate roads and turnarounds.
- Always scout out an area or driveway before committing resources.

COOPERATING AGENCIES
CalFire (BEU), USFS (Los Padres), Monterey County Sherriff and Public Works, CHP, CalTrans, California State Parks, AMR, Red Cross, CALSTAR, Mercy Air, FHL Fire Dept., PG&E

RESOURCE REQUEST RECOMMDATIONS
- **DUE TO THE LIMITED ROAD ACCESS AND VOLUME OF STRUCTURES IN DIFFICULT ACCESS AREAS, THE IC SHOULD STRONGLY CONSIDER TYPE III STRIKE TEAMS IN PLACE OF TYPE I OR II STRIKE TEAMS.**
- Due to limited access and topographical features, the IC should consider utilizing closest available (Type 2) bulldozers.

Anderson Creek, Esalen & Dolan Ridge



Santa Lucia Ranch to Big Creek



Lopez Point, Lucia, Hermitage & Mill Creek

