

# California fire kills 1 as heat stokes blazes in Western US

July 6 2018

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In this photo released Friday, July 6, 2018, by the California Highway Patrol, the Klamathon Fire burns in Hornbrook, Calif. A local California official says a deadly blaze burning near the Oregon border moved swiftly through the rural area that is home to many retirees. Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors chair Ray Haupt says the blaze moved so fast it quickly reached Hornbrook, a community of about 250 people about 14 miles (22 kilometers) south of the Oregon border. Authorities said one person was killed in the fire. (California Highway Patrol via AP)

A wildfire raging through drought-stricken timber and brush near California's border with Oregon killed one person and destroyed 40 buildings as it burned largely out of control, authorities said Friday.

No other details were released about the death blamed on the fire that threatened 300 homes near Hornbook, a town of 250 people about 14 miles (22 kilometers) south of the Oregon border. It's not clear how many of the damaged and destroyed buildings were homes and how many were garages, barns or other outbuildings in the rural area.

The so-called Klamathon Fire was one of dozens of blazes across the dry American West, fueled by rising temperatures and gusty winds that were expected to last through the weekend. Heat spreading from Southern California into parts of Arizona, Nevada and Utah threatened to worsen flames that have forced thousands of people to evacuate and destroyed hundreds of homes across the West.

A new blaze erupted Friday night in Santa Barbara County northwest of Los Angeles. A house fire got out of control and spread into residential areas in the hills above Goleta, authorities said.

North-northwest winds were blowing the embers and flames downhill and the fire was about a mile from downtown Goleta, county fire Capt. Dave Zaniboni said.



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Zaniboni told KNX-AM radio that he had seen four or five buildings burn

"It's burning down toward the populated areas of Goleta where all the residences and businesses are," Zaniboni said. "We're talking hundreds

of homes."

Mandatory evacuations were called for an area of about 1,500 people, authorities said.

People were trying to evacuate horses and other livestock from rural ranches, Zaniboni said.



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On the California-Oregon border, crews battled a fire that ignited Thursday and moved swiftly through a region that is home to many retirees, said Ray Haupt, chairman of the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors.

"It moved so fast I'm not sure how much time lagged between the evacuation and when it hit Hornbrook," he said. "It hit there pretty quick. We know we've lost homes and lots of structures, including livestock and horses as well."

California Gov. Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency, citing "extreme peril" to people and property.

Evacuations were called for Hornbrook and the tiny community of Hilt. The fire also prompted Oregon authorities to urge people to immediately evacuate an area near the town of Colestin.



Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper speaks with Basalt Mayor Jacque Whitsitt before a press conference on the Lake Christine fire in El Jebel, Colo., on Friday, July 6, 2018. In Colorado, increasing moisture has helped slow the growth of wildfires. But the threat of heavy rain has raised the possibility of flooding at a blaze that's been burning for over a month in the southwestern corner. (Anna Stonehouse/The Aspen Times via AP)

Oregon authorities urged hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts to avoid forests near the state line. Officials were concerned people in remote areas can't be reached in case they need to quickly evacuate. The areas of concern include the Pacific Crest Trail, Mount Ashland and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Fire danger could prohibit rescuers from looking for anyone, the Jackson County Sheriff's Office said.

Elsewhere in California, a massive blaze northwest of Sacramento had destroyed nine homes, officials said. Firefighters had begun inspecting the fire zone, which covers an area nearly three times the size of San Francisco.

The fire was partially contained, but crews struggled in steep, rugged terrain.

About 75 miles east of Los Angeles, a wildfire in the San Bernardino National Forest prompted mandatory evacuations for the entire community of Forest Falls, which has about 700 homes and about 1,000 residents. The fire quickly grew to about 1.5 square miles.



Flames of a wildfire rise near Duchesne, Utah, Thursday, July 5, 2018. (Ravell Call/The Deseret News via AP)

In San Diego County, a wind-driven wildfire burned at least five homes and as many as a dozen in Alpine. The governor also declared a state of emergency for the county.

The 400-acre fire was only 5 percent contained, but crews had virtually stopped its growth and were focusing on knocking down hotspots that continue to threatened houses and mobile homes, state fire officials said.

One firefighter was treated for minor facial burns.

In the same county, a fire on the Camp Pendleton Marine base prompted the evacuation of 750 homes.



Smoke pours from a wildfire near Duchesne, Utah, Thursday, July 5, 2018.  
(Ravell Call/The Deseret News via AP)

In contrast, rain helped slow the growth of wildfires in Colorado that have burned dozens of homes. But the threat of a deluge raised the possibility of flooding at a stubborn blaze in the southwestern corner of the state.

Officials issued a flash flood watch for the 85-square-mile (220-square-kilometer) area burned by a fire that started June 1. They say it is just smoldering and rain over the coming days should keep it from spreading.

Rain helped a fire in the heart of ski country that has destroyed three houses, including the home of a volunteer firefighter battling the flames near the resort town of Aspen. Gov. John Hickenlooper visited the area



Friday.

It also offered relief in the southern Colorado mountains where a blaze has destroyed over 130 homes and forced the evacuation of at least 2,000 properties. The Spring Creek Fire became the third-largest in state history at 165 square miles (427 square kilometers).



This photo shows burned structures caused by a wildfire near Duchesne, Utah, Thursday, July 5, 2018. (Ravell Call/The Deseret News via AP)

In a Utah mountain area, a wildfire that destroyed 90 structures and forced more than 1,100 people to flee was growing, but fire officials hoped to gain more control after their work Friday. Many homes and

cabins likely burned, while others may be sheds or garages.

The fire spans about 75 square miles (193 square kilometers) near a popular fishing reservoir about 80 miles (130 kilometers) southeast of Salt Lake City, according to the Utah Division Forestry Fire State Lands.

It has forced a 35-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 40 to close since Wednesday, said Sonya Capek, a fire spokeswoman. Officials believe human activity sparked the blaze, but an exact cause hasn't been determined.

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