

AVMA Situation Report – Southern California Wildfires

Date: 10/30/03

Location: Southern California

Report

The VMAT have not been activated at this time.

Additional disaster information packets have been sent to AVMA members in Lake Arrowhead and Simi Valley, California bringing the total number of disaster packets distributed to AVMA members to 239 packets.

For the latest information about the fire visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/>

Humane Society of the United States Update

Filed by: Robert Reder, HSUS West Coast Regional Office (WCRO)

San Diego County

HSUS staff and disaster volunteers are supporting local humane and animal control organizations. As of 8:30 AM today conditions have worsened in San Diego. There have been three evacuation teams formed under the direction of HSUS, WCRO Regional Director, Eric Sakach. These teams are responding to three separate towns (Crest, Valley and Center) to help organize the evacuation. Additional HSUS staff are on standby for possible deployment.

San Bernardino County

The fires have also worsened in San Bernardino County and HSUS remains in close contact with the county Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Currently eight shelters are open and two more will be opened to house an increasing number of evacuees. Over 1,000 animals are currently at temporary shelters in San Bernardino of which 30% are dogs, 30% cats, and the remaining are horses and livestock. Over 25 HSUS staff and disaster volunteers (including numerous animal services department staff) have arrived in San Bernardino County today at the request of county EOC Animal Services Coordinator. The teams have seven animal control trucks, animal-handling equipment, and many individuals trained in working in fires to San Bernardino County. Petco is delivering a truckload of supplies this afternoon in a coordinated effort from the WCRO. We are currently establishing a standby team of volunteers to replace staff as necessary.

Shasta County

Shasta County reported a large wildfire of over 1,800 acres burned with homes threatened. No animal issues at this time.

HORSES EVACUATED AS CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES RAGE

[<http://www.thehorse.com>](http://www.thehorse.com)

In the fires that have ravaged Southern California this week, up to 300,000 acres have already been burned in San Diego county alone, and about 11,000 homes have burned. According to Mark Martinelli, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVS, of California Equine Orthopedics, 800 horses were evacuated to Del Mar Fairgrounds and 400 were evacuated to Show Park on Sunday and Monday. Most of 250 unidentified horses have been identified today due to efforts to reunite owners and their horses through web sites and constant communication. "There obviously have been some equine and livestock fatalities, but for the most part, people have been evacuating pretty readily, quickly, and effectively," Martinelli said. Stay tuned for more information on the California fires.