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## High winds cause big trouble for firefighters in two brush fires

Posted: Nov 02, 2011 9:28 AM PDT  
 Updated: Nov 02, 2011 5:13 PM PDT



	Big wind causes big trouble for firefighters 05:12		Fire crews battling brush Del Sur 02:34
<a href="#">PREVIOUS</a>		1   2	



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SAN DIEGO (CBS 8/CNS) – A possible arson fire scorched about 12 open acres in the Black Mountain Ranch area Wednesday amid dry, breezy weather conditions, authorities reported.

The non-injury blaze erupted in a hilly area off Camino del Sur and San Dieguito Road shortly before 9 a.m., according to the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department.

It took about 60 firefighters and crews aboard two helicopters about an hour to fully extinguish the flames, which never threatened any structures, SDFRD

spokesman Maurice Luque said. The nearest homes were about a quarter-mile from the burn area, and mostly upwind of it, he said.

Dry Santa Ana gusts up to about 30 mph stoked the fire, according to Luque.

"Those winds did push the fire ahead of our crews. Our crews did catch up with it. We had the luxury of having two helicopters available," San Diego Fire-Rescue spokesperson Maurice Luque said.

The cause of the blaze was under investigation. A witness reported seeing a man attempting to stomp out a small fire, then flee when it started to spread.

Meanwhile, a brush fire that was burning near Harrah's Rincon Casino in Valley Center Wednesday morning has been knocked down after burning under an acre. The fire began at around 6 a.m. when and was sparked by a downed power line.

According to Cal Fire Battalion Chief Nick Schuler, fire crews were lucky to stop the spread of the blaze in the area, which has seen much larger, more destructive fires in the past.

"This is an area where we've seen very large, devastating fires. We were very fortunate that we were able to stop this fire at just a quarter-acre," Cal Fire Battalion Chief Nick Schuler said.



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## Winds fanned fires in county, Tecate

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Smoke from a brush fire west of Tecate is seen from eastern Tijuana Wednesday afternoon — Sandra Dibble

By **Pauline Repard and Susan Shroder** /h5>

6 a.m., Nov. 3, 2011

Also see »

**Freeway crash leaves one person dead**



Winds fanned fires in

Gusting Santa Ana winds fueled brush fires Wednesday, including a 600-acre blaze in a largely uninhabited area near Tecate that sent smoke over parts of San Diego County and caused ash to fall in Chula Vista, National City and Imperial Beach.

Cal Fire stationed crews at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry in case the fire spread across the border from Mexico and were ready to help Mexican firefighters if needed. Fire officials in Mexico asked for Cal Fire's assistance in the afternoon but later canceled the request.

### Update

Cal Fire officials said Thursday that while they continue to monitor the fire burning in Tecate its threat has diminished because the winds have died down. The fire has not crossed into the United States.

county, Tecate

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in cabdriver slaying**

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by lightning

The fire was still burning at sundown, with Mexican fire officials not saying when it would be contained.

Firefighters in San Diego County, meanwhile, managed to contain two small brush fires. The largest burned 12 acres in the Black Mountain Ranch area at the northern reaches of San Diego. The city's firefighters kept it from reaching homes that were about a half mile away.

Cal Fire responded to two small blazes in the county, one a rubbish fire in Dulzura and the other a one-acre brush fire near Harrah's Rincon casino in Valley Center.

"We dodged a bullet," Cal Fire Capt. Michael Mohler said, given the winds and low humidity. He said crews were on high alert, and Cal Fire will retain extra staffing Thursday.

A red-flag warning issued by the National Weather Service was in effect until 9 p.m. Wednesday in the county. The warnings are made when sustained winds of at least 25 mph or frequent gusts of 35 mph occur, combined with 15 percent or lower humidity over at least six hours.

Wind gusts as high as 50 mph were reported Wednesday in parts of East and North County. Winds were expected to diminish overnight. Light rain is forecast Thursday night and Friday, with up to a quarter-inch possible along the coast and a half-inch in the valleys and foothills.

The National Weather Service said the snow level may drop to 3,500 feet, with light snow possible atop Palomar Mountain.

### **Tecate fire**

On Wednesday, South County residents said smoke from the fire in Mexico was thick at times, and some reported eye and throat irritation and difficulty breathing. By early evening, residents as far north as La Jolla reported smelling smoke.

Imperial Beach resident Chris Morrow, who lives near the Tijuana Estuary, closed all of her condo windows and kept her two dogs inside. She went outside to take some video of the fire, but said it was "difficult to breathe." She said some people outside were holding cloths over their faces.

The fire in Mexico began shortly after 10 a.m. about two miles south of the border in the area of Valle Redondo, south of the toll road between Tijuana and Tecate, said Carlos Carreno, spokesman for the Tijuana Fire Department.

Alfredo Escobedo, Baja California's civil protection chief, said firefighters were trying to protect some rural cabins. The mountainous area is difficult to access, he said.

"The mountain is high, the firefighters can't climb it, and winds make it dangerous to use a helicopter," Escobedo said.

A tall, brown column of smoke from the blaze was visible by late morning

from Lemon Grove and Rancho San Diego. By the afternoon, smoke had drifted north, causing a brown haze in Mission Valley. Cal Fire said that some people erroneously thought the fire was on the south slope of San Miguel Mountain, southeast of Spring Valley.

In eastern Tijuana, residents of Ejido Francisco Villa watched as a huge cloud of smoke rose on the other side of the mountain around midday. Fire authorities said no residences were immediately threatened, but the head of the city's General Hospital urged anyone with respiratory difficulties or nausea from the smoke to seek immediate medical attention.

### **San Diego County fires**

Because of the potentially dangerous weather conditions, San Diego firefighters made an aggressive attack on the Black Mountain blaze when it started about 8:45 a.m., tackling it "with everything we've got," said Maurice Luque, spokesman for the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department.

No cause had been determined, but it may have been deliberately set, Luque said.

He said witnesses reported seeing a man near where the blaze started, but investigators questioned him and determined he was not involved.

The fire began in a dry canyon west of Camino del Sur near Paseo del Sur. Winds of 20 to 30 mph pushed flames across sparse vegetation crisscrossed by walking and biking trails. The winds blew the flames generally away from houses, many of them new and some still under construction.

About 60 firefighters battled the blaze, along with two firefighting helicopters that drew water from a nearby golf course pond. Most of the flames were out by about 10 a.m. Cal Fire sent a hand crew to help with mopping up the smoldering fire.

"Things were dry out there, and we had the wind and the low humidity," Luque said. "These kinds of days are a heightened concern. We're very fortunate we didn't have a lot of fires."

Lisa Vitale and Kim Zupnik, who both live in the neighborhood, had watched from afar as a fire helicopter dumped water in a canyon.

"They took care of it before it became a major catastrophe," Zupnik said.

Vitale agreed. "I'm impressed at how quickly they jumped on it and took care of it," she said.

The fire in Valley Center near Harrah's Rincon casino was sparked shortly after 6 a.m. when winds snapped a tree branch that fell onto power lines, Mohler said. The blaze near West Tribal Road and Valley Center Road was quickly contained. The federal government maintains the power lines, Mohler said.

The Dulzura fire was first reported as a house fire but turned out to be burning pile of rubbish, Mohler said. It was reported about 3:15 p.m. Cal

Fire had it quickly under control, before it could reach the house or surrounding vegetation.

### **Southern California fires**

A 2-acre blaze driven by Santa Ana winds also damaged several structures in the Glen Avon area near Riverside. One home was heavily damaged and two other structures had moderate damage, said Jody Hagemann, a Cal Fire spokeswoman.

Three people were taken to a hospital for minor smoke inhalation. The fire appeared to have started near a freeway, swept across a plowed field and among adjacent homes. Authorities said power lines were down in the area, but the cause of the blaze remained under investigation.

In Orange County, a brush fire burned 5 acres in a hilly unincorporated territory near Brea before it was contained.

*Staff writers Debbi Baker, Sandra Dibble, Gary Robbins and Steve Schmidt and The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

#### **Find this article at:**

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2011/nov/03/winds-fanned-fires-county-tecate>



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## Encinitas fire chief to serve city council term

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Written by  
**Jonathan  
Horn** /h5>

8:53 p.m., Nov. 2, 2011

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**ENCINITAS** — Encinitas Fire Chief Mark Muir will serve the remainder of Maggie Houlihan's term on the Encinitas City Council.

The City Council on Wednesday voted 3-1, with Teresa Barth opposed, to appoint Muir to replace Houlihan, who died of cancer Sept. 16. The term expires December 2012.

The decision disappointed some Houlihan supporters who attended the meeting. Many lobbied for Tony Kranz or Lisa Shaffer, whom Houlihan had publicly supported. Houlihan also had campaigned against current council members Jerome Stocks, James Bond and Kristin Gaspar. Muir, selected out of 13 applicants, is a known supporter of Stocks and Bond.

"If you select Mr. Muir to fill her shoes you will be collectively dismissing the people who voted for her," said Ian Thompson, Houlihan's widower.

Stocks said Muir was the best choice to fill the seat temporarily. Muir has been a city employee for more than 20 years, has contributed to a balanced budget as a public safety executive, and is familiar with operations, Stocks said. He said it was not a political decision.

"I want to appoint the highest qualified individual," he said.

Muir will resign as fire chief, and from the Olivenhain Municipal Water District and several other positions before being sworn in Nov. 9. Muir, who said he has voted for Houlihan for City Council, said after the meeting Wednesday that he looks forward to serving but that he will miss being fire chief.

"It's bittersweet, being in a position where you're replacing ... a good council person, who made very good, independent decisions," he said of Houlihan.

The council chose to appoint a replacement rather than hold a special election, which could not take place until February and would have cost \$320,000.

City Council seat

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Houlihan's Encinitas  
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Barth demoted, Gaspar  
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*Rancho Santa Fe*

# REVIEW

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Volume 31 Number 7

Providing The Ranch with Three Decades of Quality Journalism

Nov. 3, 2011



Construction on the new station began in June 2010, and district officials expect to open the new station in December or January. Photo/Jon Clark

## Safety features highlight new fire station in Fairbanks Ranch

BY JOE TASH

A new fire station under construction in Fairbanks Ranch will be one of the safest buildings in the community due to strict earthquake standards imposed by the state.

The new station at 6424 El Apajo will replace the Rancho Santa Fe Fire District's former Station No. 3, which was demolished last year. During construction, the area is being served from a temporary station housed in trailers across the street.

Construction on the new station began in June 2010, and district officials expect to open the new station in December or January.

The new, nearly 11,000-square-foot station replaces a 3,000-square-foot facility built in 1983. In 1986, California adopted the Essential Services Buildings Seismic Safety Act, which requires that public safety buildings such as fire stations be built 125 percent stronger than non-safety buildings, said Rancho Santa Fe fire Capt. Chris Galindo, project manager for the new fire station.

Because the new station is in a flood zone, construction crews had to put in 192 columns made of compressed rock, three feet each in diameter and 40 feet tall, to stabilize the

See STATION, page 18

## Rancho Valencia to undergo major renovation: See page 3



### Halloween fun in RSF

A variety of creatures, princesses, robots and more had a great time at the RSF School's annual Halloween Parade and Carnival held Oct. 28.

(Above left) Parade participants; (Above right) Brandon and Dylan Powell; (Right) Casey Thatcher and Malia Rivere. See page 20 for more. Photos/Jon Clark



### Dia Del Sol

The Beach & Country Guild's spectacular 2011 Dia Del Sol event, held Oct. 26 at The Grand Del Mar, helped raise funds for United Cerebral Palsy of San Diego. (Above) Kimberly Hunt, Andrene Dziubinski, and Colleen Clayton, 2011 Beach and Country Guild president. (Right) Beautiful models in the children's fashion show. See pages 22 and 23 for more. Photos/Jon Clark



## RSF Review adds readers' photos, real estate features to Web site

Two new features for local photos and real estate have enhanced ranchosantafereview.com, the Review's daily online edition. The new Reader Photo Gallery showcases favorite photos shot by our readers. The upgraded and expanded real estate section has nifty new features in addition to the ever-popular open home directory.

Local residents and businesses can submit photos to be published online, whether it's a weekend event or a private social gathering or just any fun time in Rancho Santa Fe. Share your pictures of youth sports, surfers, weddings, graduation or prom. Show off your best view of Rancho Santa Fe or your favorite travel photo. Pictures of

See READERS, page 26

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## STATION

*continued from page 1*

ground beneath the building, said Galindo.

"You definitely want that in time of emergency to make sure our apparatus can get out (of the building)," said Rancho Santa Fe Fire Chief Tony Michel.

The new station also includes an emergency generator and diesel fuel tanks, to ensure that the station and its fire trucks can function in an earthquake or other disaster, Michel said.

Jim Ashcraft, president of the fire district's board of directors, estimated that with all contingencies included, the total cost of the new station will be about \$4.7 million.

Michel and Ashcraft said 75 percent of the money for the station will come from fees charged to developers for projects within the district, while the remaining 25 percent will come from the district's general fund, generated primarily from property tax revenue.

The building was designed to fit in with the surrounding community, said Michel, and includes cut stone on its outer façade, along with ornamentation that appears to be made of painted wood but is in fact lightweight foam.

While he has heard some comments about the size of the building, Michel



**Julie Taber, Chief Tony Michel, and Captain Chris Galindo. Photo/Jon Clark**

said the new station was designed as a two-story structure so that fire trucks and ambulances can exit and enter safely and efficiently.

Because the old station had only one driveway for entry and exit, firefighters had to stop traffic on El Apajo and back the fire trucks into the station each time they returned from a call. The new building has two driveways, so trucks can pull into the building and out again, without having to shift into reverse.

Living quarters, a kitchen, dining room and a workout area were built on the second floor, above the apparatus bay where the rigs are kept. The new station will have one old-fashioned component—a brass fire pole will be installed, so firefighters can quickly drop down from their living quarters to

the equipment bay when they get an emergency call.

"Everything's about response time. In the case of a stroke, every second is important," Ashcraft said.

In order to expand the footprint of the old station, the district purchased a half-acre of land from a next-door neighbor to bring the entire parcel to .83 of an acre, said Galindo.

The old fire station was not only built before the current state earthquake standards were enacted, but it had numerous problems such as dry rot and termite infestation, officials said, which made it more cost-effective to tear it down and build a new station.

Initially, the station will house a three-person engine company, which includes three three-person crews. The station has room to bring in an additional truck, or possibly an ambulance, Michel said.

With the new station online, the district will have four fire stations in operation to cover its 38-square-mile territory, which includes Rancho Santa Fe, Fairbanks Ranch, 4S Ranch, The Crosby, Cielo and other communities.

With the completion of the new station, the district now has all of its physical structures in place to serve its population of 28,000 residents for the next 50 to 60 years, and the district won't face any new capital costs for "a long time," Ashcraft said.

## Local rider helps raise funds for Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Cycle for Life

**BY KAREN BILLING**

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation San Diego Chapter's Aptalis CF Cycle for Life took place on Saturday, Oct. 29, starting at Mira Costa College, with the routes taking participants through Fairbanks Ranch and Rancho Santa Fe.

Maria Olson, the foundation's executive director said participation has grown significantly from last year. Last year the ride had just 60 participants, this year there were nearly 300 riders.

Olson said the fundraising ride was especially exciting this year as there are two drugs in development that could potentially cure cystic fibrosis, a chronic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system of about 30,000 children and adults in the U.S.

Jim Van Evera, a UPS driver covering Fairbanks Ranch for the last 28 years, was one of the fundraising event's riders.

Van Evera became aware of CF from the challenges faced by his children's friends Sharlie and Lexi Ross. Both girls were diagnosed with CF and Lexi passed away at age 14 from the disease. Sharlie is now 32 and married with a young son, but is awaiting a double lung transplant and a heart transplant.

Knowing first hand what CF patients endure, Van Evera and his family began the quest of raising money for the foundation from lemonade stands to Van Evera's signing up for the ride with a target goal of \$1,000.

"My friends and family are very generous," said Van Evera of their donations. "I had to reset my goal a couple of times because people were so generous."

His new goal was \$3,500, which he was set to meet as long as he crossed the finish line. He rides about 25 miles every weekend so he was not worried about the 32-mile race—riders could also opt to race a 62- or 70-mile course.

With all the cyclists in the area, Van Evera encourages people to start thinking about next year.

"It's such a good event and it raises a lot of money for the cause. I was just really excited to do it," Van Evera said. To learn more about the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and upcoming events, visit [cff.org/Chapters/sandiego](http://cff.org/Chapters/sandiego).



**Riders in Oct. 29's Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Cycle for Life.**

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# Suspect Breaks Into Fire Station, Takes Ambulance Keys: Officials

Officials report incident happened at about 6:40 a.m. at the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District Station 2

By [Joe Young](#)

| Friday, Nov 4, 2011 | Updated 4:59 PM PST

A suspect broke into the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District Station 2 Friday morning, taking keys to an ambulance and a pager, according to RSFFPD officials.

The unidentified suspect entered the station and headed to a dorm room assigned to a San Diego Medical Services paramedic at about 6:40 a.m., according to a media release.

The suspect reportedly took keys assigned to one of the station's ambulances as well as an ambulance pager.

"We are taking this incident very seriously," said Battalion Chief Mike Gibbs. "The safety of the community and our personnel is our priority."

A second ambulance was moved to the station in order to make sure service was not interrupted.

The San Diego County Sheriff's department is cooperating with station officials to investigate the incident.

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**Find this article at:**

<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/Suspect-Breaks-Into-Fire-Station-Takes-Ambulance-Keys-Officials--133274758.html>

 The North County Times - Californian

## **RANCHO SANTA FE: Fire district reports a break-in at station**

**By EDWARD SIFUENTES [esifuentes@nctimes.com](mailto:esifuentes@nctimes.com) | Posted: Friday, November 4, 2011 7:50 pm**

RANCHO SANTA FE ---- A burglar broke into a fire station and stole some keys and a pager Friday morning, the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District said.

The break-in occurred about 6:40 a.m. at Station 2 on Four Gee Road and took the keys to the ambulance assigned to the station as well as the ambulance pager, said Julie Taber, a spokeswoman for the department.

Another ambulance was moved to the station to make sure there was no interruption in service to the community, she said.

Fire officials reported the break-in to the Sheriff's Department.

"We are taking this incident very seriously," said Battalion Chief Mike Gibbs.

The district provides emergency services for several communities surrounding Rancho Santa Fe.

# Stolen ambulance keys recovered

By **Elizabeth Marie Himchak**

Ambulance keys stolen from the fire station in 4S Ranch have been recovered, according to a sheriff's department spokeswoman.

The keys, along with an ambulance pager, were taken around 6:40 a.m. on Friday (Nov. 4) when someone broke into Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District Station No. 2, said Julie Taber, RSFFPD spokeswoman.

"The suspect entered a dorm room assigned to a San Diego Medical Services paramedic and stole the keys to the ambulance assigned to the station as well as the ambulance pager," Taber said.

According to Taber, another ambulance was moved to Station No. 2, so there was no interruption in providing emergency services to the 4S Ranch community.

"We are taking this incident very seriously," said Battalion Chief Mike Gibbs. "The safety of the community and our personnel is our priority. We are cooperating fully with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department as they continue to investigate the incident and will do everything we can to prevent this from occurring in the future."

The ambulance keys were located and the incident is still being investigated, said sheriff's spokeswoman Melissa Aquino on Monday.

<http://www.pomeradonews.com/2011/11/07/stolen-ambulance-keys-recovered/>

[print](#)

## Job market woes extend to next generation

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by Lillian Cox

11.09.11 - 01:57 pm



COAST CITIES — A troubling effect of the Great Recession is its impact on young workers. From April to July, the number of employed youth, ages 16 to 24, rose by 1.7 million to 18.6 million, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The share of young people employed in July was 48.8 percent, the lowest for July on record since statistics began in 1948.

Youth unemployment has become a hot button issue because of long-term consequences that can include loss of job readiness and skills, idleness and feelings of hopelessness that can lead to poverty and crime. Many young people feel the American Dream is beyond their reach.

North County high schools are working with employers to put students to work.

Laura Bunzli is a career guidance tech at El Camino High School in Oceanside.

“If an employer calls and gives me the position and contact info, I post it in the career center and put it in the daily bulletin that announces school happenings,” she said. “Students can come into the career center and find out who’s hiring. I’ll give them a printed sheet with contact info. I also have websites where they can look themselves.”

Other high schools including Torrey Pines offer work experience and internship programs with employers such Starbucks, the Golden Spoon, Flower Hill Flowers and Scripps Hospital.

Debra Brody is the WorkAbility coordinator for the San Dieguito Union High School District. The state-funded program provides pre-employment skills training, worksite training and follow-up services for youth (ages 12 to 22) in special education who are making the transition from school to work. This group includes those with developmental disabilities, autism, attention deficit disorder, dyslexia and vision and hearing deficits.

Brody reports that the economy has impacted her program.

“Most jobs traditionally filled by high school students are being filled by experienced adults,” she said. “Fast food restaurants are somewhat the exception, although jobs for teens under 18 are extremely hard to find.”

Brody said she’s had the best results with fast food restaurants and some grocery stores.

“If teens need money, the quickest way is babysitting, dog walking and doing odd jobs,” she added. “Meanwhile, they should volunteer because it beefs up the resume.”

Local businesses that have stepped up to the plate include Hansen’s Surf Shop, Detour Salon, Dogs & Suds, Scripps Hospital and LegoLand.

West Inn and Suites has participated in the WorkAbility program for three years, pairing employees with staff under the direction of Carl Holmes, housekeeping manager. A year ago Holmes was recognized for his leadership by the U.S. Congress and California State Senate.

Participants such as Danny Arellano have thrived under Holmes’ guidance, advancing to permanent positions after the completion of subsidized training.

“We love these kids,” said Kimberly Akers, vice president of hospitality. “They are a real part of the team. They are never late and have a real willingness to serve. Danny has an eye for detail and has been cross-trained.”

Danny says the best part of the job is getting a paycheck and meeting people.

“My parents are proud of me,” he said. “That feels good.”

Blaze Newman is a teacher and school site coordinator of the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Program for the San Dieguito Union High School District. The program is targeted to students who don’t traditionally go on to college.

Newman just launched a job shadowing program, linking students with professionals.

“One student thought he wanted to be a veterinarian,” she said. “After shadowing Dr. Milton Gee for a day he has a more tangible vision of what the job entails. At the end of the day he said, ‘We spayed two dogs!’ He felt connected and involved.”

Newman says another senior worked a 24-hour shift with an engineer with the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department.

A computer game designer, pharmaceutical sales representative, CEO, elementary school teacher, nurse practitioner and neo-natal hospital nurse have also signed up to serve as hosts.

“This is a start-up program that is going to expand significantly this year and I would love to hear from anyone interested in hosting a student,” Newman said. “I am looking for professionals working mostly in jobs that require four-year degrees.”

Newman can be contacted at [blaze.newman@sduhsd.net](mailto:blaze.newman@sduhsd.net).

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# 10News.com

Crews Contain Brush Fire In Del Sur Area

Related To Story

## **Fire Burned 5 To 8 Acres Near Camino Del Sur And Maranatha Drive**

POSTED: 5:07 pm PST November 9, 2011  
UPDATED: 6:07 pm PST November 9, 2011

**SAN DIEGO** -- Firefighters were able to control a brush fire that burned between five to eight acres in the Del Sur area.

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Photo By: Sky10

The fire was reported shortly before 5 p.m. Wednesday in an area near Camino Del Sur and Maranatha Drive, behind the Maranatha Christian School.

Julie Taber of the Rancho Santa Fe Fire District said the fire was contained as of 5:40 p.m., and no homes were immediately threatened by the blaze. Marantha Christian School was evacuated at the time of the fire.

Taber said a sewer treatment facility was briefly threatened by the fire.

No other evacuations were ordered.

About 700 customers in the area were left without power due to the fire, but power was coming back to several homes by 6 p.m.

Fire officials said the cause of the blaze is under investigation.

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fox5sandiego.com/news/kswb-rancho-santa-fe-fire-brush-fire-burns-close-to-power-lines-school-20111109,0,3112764.story

## KSWB

### Brush fire burns close to power lines, school

9:17 PM PST, November 9, 2011

RANCHO SANTA FE, Calif. - Firefighters knocked down a five- to eight-acre vegetation fire just north of Maranatha Christian School in Rancho Santa Fe Wednesday.

Firefighters from the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District, the San Diego and Encinitas departments and Cal-Fire responded to the fire at 4:30 p.m. which was underneath the power lines Old Course Road and Maranatha Drive, said the district's Julie Taber.

The fire was being pushed by 15 mph Santa Ana winds and was contained about 30 minutes later.

The school was not immediately threatened, but the campus was evacuated as a precaution.

No injuries were reported and the cause of the blaze was under investigation, Taber said.

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## 4S RANCH: Fire reported near school

By MORGAN COOK [mcook@nctimes.com](mailto:mcook@nctimes.com) | Posted: Wednesday, November 9, 2011 6:30 pm

4S RANCH ---- Firefighters doused a five- to seven-acre brush fire that started for unknown reasons Wednesday afternoon near a school, a fire official said.

Firefighters responded at about 4:50 p.m. to a report of a fire near Maranatha Christian School and the corner of Maranatha Drive and Camino Del Sur, said Julie Taber, a spokeswoman for Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District.

Spectators at a volley ball game in the school's gym were asked to move to safety as a precaution, Taber said. She said the school was not threatened.

The fire briefly threatened a sewer treatment plant, Taber said.

She said it took firefighters about 30 minutes to extinguish the blaze.

No structures were damaged and no one was hurt, Taber said.

She said the cause of the fire was under investigation and damage had not been estimated.

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Editor [ShaunteLowe](#): Heard some news from Rancho Bernardo, Rancho Penasquitos or 4S Ranch that you want us to check out? Let me know at [ShaunteLowe@Patch.com](mailto:ShaunteLowe@Patch.com).

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## Brush Fire Burns Several Acres Near 4S Ranch School

No homes were ever threatened, and the school was evacuated, officials said.

By [ShaunteLowe](#) [Email the author](#) November 9, 2011

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*Updated 7:50 p.m. with information on power outages and a revised time from officials for the start of fire and time of containment.*

A vegetation fire burned five to eight acres just north of a 4S Ranch school where a volleyball game was underway late Wednesday afternoon, knocking out power for more than 1,300 households.

The fire, in the hills beyond The Lakes community development in 4S Ranch, and just north of Maranatha Christian School, was first reported around 4:30 p.m., said Julie Taber, a spokeswoman for the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District. The school is near Camino del Sur and Maranatha Drive.

Firefighters were on scene within minutes and had the fire out in about 30 minutes before any structures burned, Taber said. No homes in The Lakes were ever threatened, though a nearby sewer treatment facility was at one point, she said.

The school was evacuated as a precaution and no one was injured, she said.

Erin Collier, a spokeswoman for San Diego Gas & Electric, said 1,326 customers lost power beginning at 4:26 p.m. Wednesday after the fire damaged equipment in the area. By 6 p.m. all but 10 customers had power restored, she said, with full restoration expected by 11:30 p.m.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Taber said she did not yet know if arson had been ruled out as a possible cause.

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## Rancho Santa Fe firefighters respond to vegetation fire in 4S Ranch

On Nov. 9, at 4:30 p.m., firefighters from the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District (RSFFPD), along with firefighters from the city of San Diego, Encinitas, and Cal-Fire, responded to a reported vegetation fire near Old Course Road and Maranatha Drive in 4S Ranch. When they arrived on the scene, firefighters reported a 4-acre vegetation fire underneath the power lines just north of Maranatha Christian School.

The fire was pushed by 15 mph Santa Ana winds and was contained approximately 30 minutes at 5-8 acres. The school was not directly threatened, but they did evacuate the campus as a precaution. A sewer treatment facility was threatened briefly, but firefighters were able to protect the structure. No injuries were reported. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

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Christian Hellmers stands with his check from the Breeders' Cup in front of the Del Mar racetrack, where he learned the ropes of betting at an early age. Photo: Claire Harlin

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- [Carmel Valley engineer runs unique nonprofit school that teaches computer programming to youths](#) November 14, 2011  
Former Navy pilot, electrical engineer and computer manufacturer Vic Wintriss has the outrageous idea that children of grade- and middle-school ages can be taught computer programming — and, who knows, might even become the next Steve Jobs or Bill Gates — or at least help alleviate a looming national shortage of one million programmers that threatens the [...]
- [Solana Beach features new public art](#) November 14, 2011  
New public art has recently popped up in Solana Beach. It brightens the streetscapes and enriches the experience of visitors to the coastal community, said Carol Beth Rodriguez, membership chair for the Solana Beach Art Association and a member of the City of Solana Beach's Public Arts Advisory Commission (PAAC), which oversees the community's art progra [...]
- [Del Mar Mesa board considers open space parkland dedication](#) November 14, 2011  
Hundreds of canyons all over the city are prime for dedication as parkland open space, Eric Bowlby, executive director of the nonprofit San Diego Canyonlands organization, told the Del Mar Mesa planning board Nov. 10. [...]

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- [Aguerre steps down from Surf Industry post](#)

La Jolla resident Fernando Aguerre has resigned his post as president of the Surf Industry Manufacturers Association Humanitarian Fund and his chairmanship of the Liquid Nation Ball, effective immediately. [...]

- [Longtime WindanSea vet moves on](#)  
Dr. Bruce Lindsey, who founded WindanSea Veterinary Clinic at 6911 La Jolla Blvd. in 1971, resigned his position Oct. 29 and is practicing independently. [...]
- [Pacella named plastic surgery chief](#)  
Salvatore Pacella, M.D., M.B.A., was recently named chief of plastic surgery at Scripps Clinic & Research Institute and Scripps Green Hospital in La Jolla. [...]
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