

This afternoon on Sep. 27 a fire occurred in Orange County near the 91 Freeway and Gypsum Canyon Road after a combination of hot temperatures, strong winds, and dry fuel started to pick up around 9:45 a.m.

Huge amounts of smoke can be seen in the O.C area where there was 100 acres of fires moving quickly. The smoke can be seen creeping up to the Route 241 Toll Road. A flare occurred as CalTrans was working on the 91 Freeway in the morning on Sept. 27.

By the afternoon the fires spread to 2,000 acres and spread past Riverside County towards the border. Due to the huge uncontrollable fires, about 16,570 people were told to evacuate their homes in the O.C. area. This included Anaheim, Orange, Corona and Tustin.

Helicopters and planes were on the scene responding quickly as possible and dropped water and flame retardant on the ongoing fires. Between Sept. 27-28 500 firefighters have engaged to stop the fires. Twice the number of fighter fighters may continue to be on the scene until Sept. 28 says authorities.

An Anaheim Hills resident, Vicky Walker, 50, states, “I had just enough time to pack a few things and get the heck out...Luckily, I got my wedding pictures.” Residents are leaving their valuable items to make sure that their lives are saved.

0% of the fires have not been contained and continued to burn. The fires continued until the next day resulting in 11.7 square miles of land burned, at least 60 buildings have been damaged, and 30 homes demolished.

The chief of Cal Fire’s Riverside division, Steve Beach, states, “we are probably, by noon, going to be stretched as thin as we can be, but that doesn’t mean we aren’t going to fight the fire.”

As the fires continued firefighters have moved quick to contain the rapidness of the fire. Residents were able to evacuate just in time as the flames reached nearby neighborhoods and were able to defeat the flames and save their lives.

Two firefighters on the scene have been reported to be injured but so far no deaths have been reported. The injured firefighters were moved to St. Joseph’s Medical Center.

As the county responds, Gov. Gavin Newsom has announced a state of emergency for O.C. around noon.

With this state of emergency in place and the growing fires continuing, thousands of people have taken shelter at El Modena High in Anaheim and the East Anaheim Community Center located on Santa Ana Canyon Road.

Matt Singer, a local resident recreational leader of Anaheim Hills states, “I looked up and thought, ‘Oh no, not again’ ...It looked like hell on earth.”

As the fires burned about 5,000 structures remained in danger.