

CORONADO HILLS FIRE

October 22, 2007



Presented by

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CORONADO HILLS FIRE



Incident Overview

- Fire dispatched on Monday, October 22, 2007 at 1:47 AM
- Initial fire resources arrived within 6 minutes
- Initial report was the potential for a Major Wildland Incident
- Fire Started in the area of Washingtonia Drive and Atterbury Drive



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Incident Overview

- Residents and homes were immediately threatened at the South end of Washingtonia Drive and Oceanview Drive
- Fire was spreading rapidly in a South/West direction towards the San Elijo and Discovery Hills neighborhoods
- Evacuations were ordered for San Elijo, Discovery Hills, and Coronado Hills



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Incident Overview

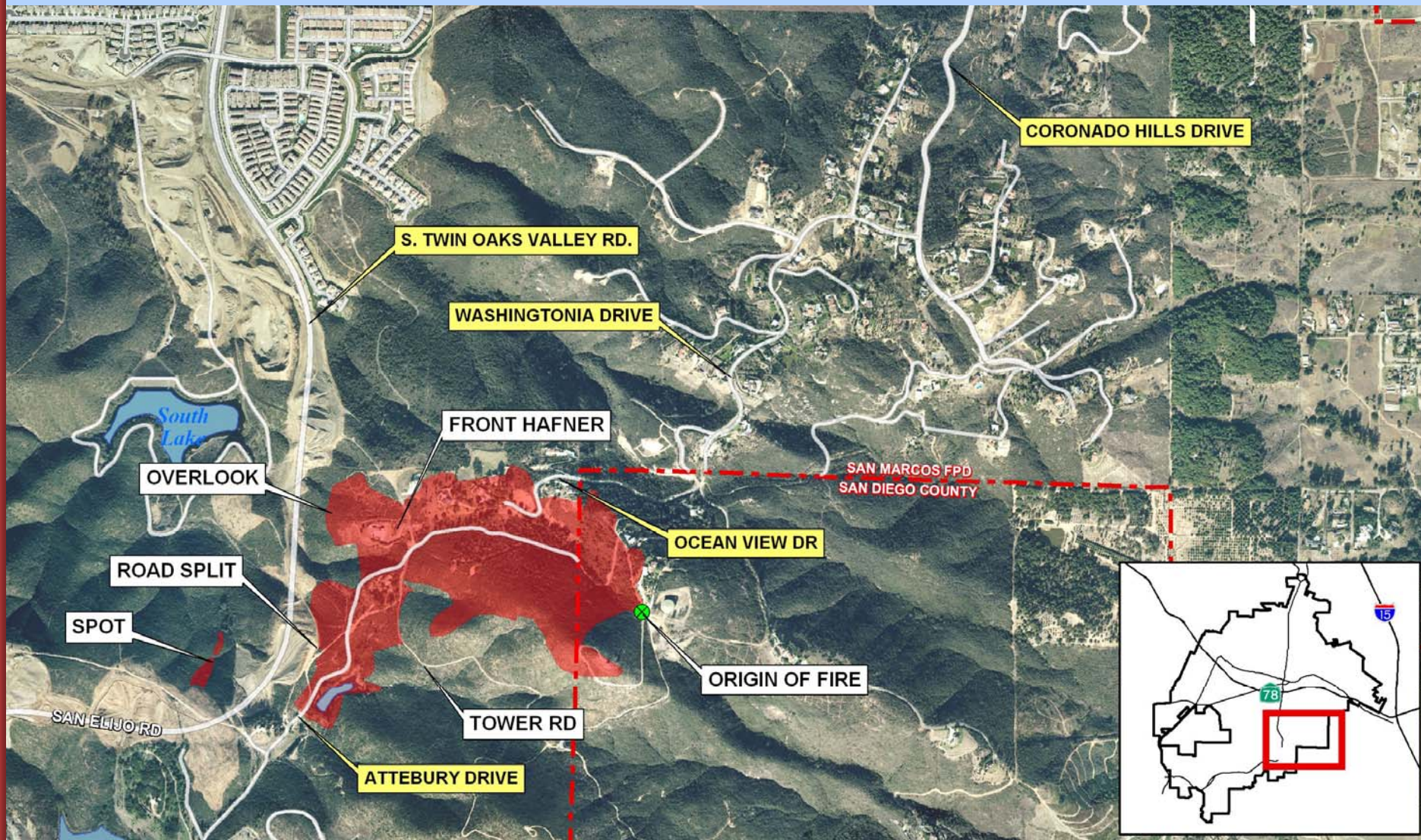
- Due to the extreme burning conditions, the primary objective was Life Safety and Structure Protection
- Firefighting resources were limited due the amount of fires burning in the region
- San Marcos EOC was activated
- Evacuation Shelter established at Mission Hills High School



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Incident Map/Dispatch Audio/Progression Map



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Major Concerns

- The fire was burning in the same path as the 1996 Harmony Fire (approximately 8,000 acres)
- Coronado Hills Fire was a significant threat to residents and homes
 - Potential to burn approximately 4,000 acres
- The fire had the potential to spread into:
 - The Discovery Hills neighborhood
 - The Lake San Marcos neighborhood
 - San Elijo neighborhood
 - The community of Elfin forest

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Major Concerns

- Limited resources available in the Region
 - Initial request for fire resources was 33 engines
 - The Incident received a total of 21 engines and two water tenders (San Marcos resources included)
 - No aircraft available
 - No hand crews available
 - No dozers available

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Successes

- Fire Department personnel were able to save all homes in the fire's path
- Evacuations were ordered early in the incident
 - This allowed streets to be closed, thus allowing a safer work environment for firefighters
- By 0700 hours fire slowed due to topographic features and a temporary decrease in wind speed



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Successes

- All off-duty personnel returned to work allowing the Department to continue normal operations
- Excellent support from cooperating agencies:
 - San Diego County Sheriff's Department
 - San Marcos Public Works Department
 - Vallecitos Water District
- San Marcos EOC activation
 - Good coordination with the incident
 - EOC training for city staff paid off
 - Emergency cache cots and sleeping bags used by extra firefighters



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Improvements

- EOC position training will continue
 - Shelter and public information
 - Display monitors will be installed at EOC
 - A phone call triage system is being built that will accommodate hundreds of citizen phone inquiries to clarify evacuation and road closure public information

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Improvements

- There will be continued training on the use of the Mass Notification System (Reverse 9-1-1) by City personnel
- The Regional Communications System (RCS) was taxed due to the overwhelming demand by regional agencies.
 - This will be addressed to the RCS.

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The Future

- Continue to educate the community on the dangers of living in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)
 - Continue to stress the need for adequate defensible space
 - Continue to stress the need to maintain a combustibles free area around the home



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The Future

- Continue efforts to improve access to neighborhoods in the Wildland Urban Interface

