



NEWS RELEASE

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Vegetation Fire Threatens Homes in Olema

Quick action by firefighters prevents any structural damage

Olema, CA - A fast moving fire along Highway One in Olema came within several feet of homes and other structures late this afternoon. Marin County Fire Department personnel responded to the blaze at 5:40 PM across from the Olema Campground. A vehicle struck a utility pole causing a power line to fall onto the dry grass. The flames spread fast and within minutes were dangerously close to the structures. "Quick action by firefighters saved these homes" said Jason Weber, fire chief for the department. One of the structures was an old schoolhouse built in the 1800's.

Crews were challenged by the blocked roadway which hampered their ability to initially access part of the fire.

The nearly three acre fire was contained in just over 30 minutes.

The roadway was completely block for a significant time by the downed power lines and broken utility pole.

Assistance on the fire was provided by the Inverness Volunteer fire department and the National Park Service. Cal Fire launched aircraft from Sonoma County which were ultimately cancelled without dropping any water. Personnel from the Novato Fire District and the Ross Valley Fire Department, along with Cal Fire, covered Marin County fire stations during the incident.

There were no injuries to fire crews or the driver of the vehicle.

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