



Southern California interagency Incident Management Team 1



Hidden Fire News Release

**For Immediate Release
September 19, 2008**

Proactive Burnout Operations on the Hidden Fire to Cause Delays on Generals Highway in Sequoia National Park

Fire managers announced today that motorists can expect intermittent delays and possible temporary closures on Generals Highway beginning on Saturday, September 20, 2008 while firefighters conduct burn-out operations. These operations may last for several days. In order to minimize impacts to visitors and to take advantage of optimal burning conditions, the majority of these operations will take place during evening and night-time hours.

These burn-out, or "firing" operations, are designed to remove fuels and strengthen fire line in an effort to successfully contain the Hidden Fire which has been burning in the area since September 10, 2008.

To protect firefighter and public safety, motorists are asked to avoid stopping and to drive slowly, follow posted signs, and be aware that smoke may be present on roadways, limiting visibility. Also, visitors to the area should avoid exertion in areas of heavy smoke, especially if they are sensitive to smoke impacts. Smoke will be monitored on a consistent basis throughout this operation.

The Hidden Fire started from a lightning strike on Wednesday, September 10th at approximately 6:24 PM, in the Sequoia National Park, 12 miles north of the community of Three Rivers. Initial assessment and attack began immediately, and on September 16, 2008, management of the fire was transferred to Southern California Interagency Incident Management Team 1.

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