3 Narrative

A Wildland fire broke out on Thursday, 15 miles southwest of Cupertino.

The fire started up on RT 35 by the Saratoga Gap Open Space Preserve and, fanned by southerly winds, has been advancing in a Northeast direction toward the county's population areas. Several thousand acres of Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District land have already burned. As of Friday night, the current fire line has come down off the ridge, has crossed East of Mt Eden Road, and is threatening the Saratoga Country Club.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) reports that its only 20% contained.

CDF, supported by units of Santa Clara County Fire, have been on the fire line since Thursday afternoon. CDF Air Tankers have been dropping water on the blaze all day Friday.

Winds died down Thursday night at about 10:00pm, and an advancing cloud cover covered the area. Winds picked up again Friday morning, and the fire continued to move claiming another 2000 acres and 3 homes.

Smoke started to drift over the city beginning Friday afternoon. County Comm reported several 9-1-1 calls from people experiencing respiratory problems, with the bulk of them coming from residents downwind of the fire. Most of the AMR responses were made to residents in the south west portion of the city.

On Friday, several residents called 9-1-1 to report smelling smoke and seeing embers flying overhead. Only one fire was actually reported. County Fire responded and had the fire under control within 30 minutes. It was determined to have been caused by embers from the fire 10 miles away. Due to attentive neighbors, it was reported very quickly.

On Friday evening, the Santa Clara County Health Department issued a Shelter in Place notification for people with respiratory problems for the western cities in Santa Clara Valley, including Campbell, Cupertino, Saratoga, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and the western portion of San Jose.

The National Weather Service predicts Saturday to be clear with winds picking up again in the morning, averaging 10-15 miles per hour with gusts to 20.

A call for additional mutual aid went out on Friday afternoon. CDF expects mutual aid units to arrive Saturday morning. DeAnza College has been designated as staging.