



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



October 24, 2007

Navy Supporting San Diego Firefighting Effort

“Navy firefighting aircraft, helicopters, trucks and crews are working closely with civil authorities to bring relief to those affected by California’s wild fires. It gives me great pride knowing that many Sailors, civilians and family members are answering the call and volunteering in support of friends and neighbors in the community.”

-- Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

Into the 3rd day for air and ground crews combating the wildfires, Navy is heavily integrated in the overall San Diego County firefighting effort, as well as caring for the Navy families and the community of San Diego:

Navy’s Contribution... (as of 24 Oct)

- Seven Navy helicopters, equipped to carry water, have dumped 113,400 gallons of water
- Navy helicopters have also assisted civil authorities with infra-red mapping of the fire, and a Navy P-3 is being used for situational surveillance.
- Five local bases and air stations have deployed 5 fire engines, 3 trucks and 30+ fire-fighting personnel.
- Naval Medical Center- San Diego (NMCS):
 - Established an Operations Center to manage medical efforts for military personnel, dependents and civilians.
 - Accepted 38 civilians due to civilian hospital closures and evacuations, and admitted 28 nursing home patients.
 - Accepted 10 patients from Pomerado Hospital and providing housing for 33 staff members and their families.
 - Naval Hospital Twenty-nine Palms provided 16 staff members to aid in the care of the nursing home patients.
 - Replenishing medical supplies for dozens of community members who evacuated their homes without necessary medications.
 - Donated 12 wheelchairs to those at Qualcomm Stadium shelter and have volunteers handing hot meals at the same location. Eleven Wounded Warriors volunteered and participated by handing out hot lunches at the stadium.
 - Providing primary care and preventative medicine services at 7 locations for an estimated 2,600 displaced personnel.
- Medical personnel from the San Diego-based USS Cleveland (LPD 7) are providing medical care to civilian evacuees at San Diego High School, and Sailors from the San Diego-based ships USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), pre-commissioning Unit Makin Island (LHD 8), USS Benfold (DDG 65) and USS Cape St. George (CG 71) have been helping civilian evacuees at evacuation centers around the county.
- CNRSW provided cots for the Qualcomm Stadium Shelter as well as other evacuation sites around the county.
- Naval Base San Diego, Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, Naval Air Station, El Centro, and Naval Air Station North Island are accepting military and DoD civilian evacuees.

For up-to-date information, visit www.cnrsw.navy.mil

Key Messages	Facts & Figures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As integral members of the community, we are here to help and are providing assistance in every way we can. • Our Navy families are being cared for... We’ve got shelters ready and our Sailors have been given the time they need to care for them. • Our ability to quickly respond to disasters is a critical Navy mission. We are positioned to provide rapid response with many assets and have executed that mission this week in San Diego. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 165,000 Navy, Navy civilian and family members are subject to evacuation orders. • 4,200+ Navy family members are sheltered in USN installations • HSC-85 crews worked 8 fires (15.8 hours) and 270 buckets (420 gallons each) on 23 Oct. • Several ships postponed getting underway so Sailors were available to support their families.