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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday September 24, 2016
Release No. 201609-035

VANDENBERG AFB NORTH AND SOUTH BASE FIRE UPDATES

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – The fires on both North and South Vandenberg are 100% contained. However damaged vegetation, unstable ground and smoldering debris continue to pose a safety hazard to personnel within the burn area. As we return to work on Monday stay on improved surfaces such as sidewalks and paved roads. Do not venture into burned areas.

Hot spots within these areas are likely to smolder for several days. If you see a fire nearing a containment line or outside known burn areas please call 606-3437. For all other emergencies, personnel call 911.

For updates please check the Vandenberg AFB website at www.vandenberg.af.mil.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday September 24, 2016
Release No. 201609-034

VANDENBERG AFB NORTH AND SOUTH BASE FIRE UPDATES

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – As of 12:00 p.m. PDT September 24, here are the latest updates on the fires at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Canyon Fire:
Current size is 12,518 acres. Fire is now 100% contained. Final mop up actions will continue for the next few days.

Washington Fire: (includes Oak Canyon)
Current size is 224 acres. Fire is 50% contained. Good progress is being made today and officials are optimistic they will be able to have the fire fully contained in the next day or two.

Initial damage assessments continue for both fires. In addition, personnel on North Base have begun cleaning fire retardant dropped on facilities and buildings during the response on Thursday.

The base will resume normal reporting and duty schedules on Monday.

For safety reasons, personnel on VAFB are directed to stay out of areas burned by the fires on South and North Base. Trees and ground in the burned areas can be unstable and the area is unsafe. In addition, fire crews will be doing work to ensure there are no flare ups in these areas.

To help security and fire responders manage resources, VAFB personnel who see any flare ups or fires on base property are asked to call 606-3437. For any other immediate emergencies, personnel should call 911.

For updates please check the Vandenberg AFB website at www.vandenberg.af.mil.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday September 23, 2016
Release No. 201609-033

VANDENBERG AFB BEGINS RECOVERY EFFORTS

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – Vandenberg AFB begins cleanup and recovery efforts in order to return the base to normal operations after the Canyon Fire that began on Sept. 17.

Currently the Canyon Fire is at 100 percent containment. It has consumed more than 12,500 acres. At its peak the fire had 1,052 fire fighters from more than 50 agencies and multiple aircraft in a battle to save life, property, and national defense facilities.

According to Lt. Col. Ryan Novotny, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, crews have restored electricity to the more than 150 facilities that lost power due to a swift moving fire through the base cantonment area on Sept. 22. At this time, the fire is controlled and fire teams are accomplishing mop-up actions. Civil engineers have returned natural gas supplies to housing and dormitories that had supplies turned off on Sept. 22 in effort to minimize the fire danger.

Vandenberg airmen will be sweeping, and in some areas scrubbing, air delivered fire retardant from buildings, pathways and sidewalks. Although the retardant is safe, it may cause minor skin irritation if contacted.

The 30th SW Commander has rescinded 6-Ring Standby and normal work schedules will resume Monday, Sept. 26, at 6 a.m. Additionally on Monday, South Vandenberg will reopen to normal access. Honda Ridge Road on South Base will remain closed until further notice.
Outdoor recreational activities are still restricted on South Vandenberg.

Long-term recovery efforts are in the planning stages and Vandenberg officials are confident that the installation will soon be postured to resume launch operations.

As we begin recovery below is the status of our FSS facilities for Saturday.

Base Exchange: normal hours
**Limited food service at food vendors in BX complex

Commissary: normal hours

Gas Station: normal hours
Shoppette: normal hours

Youth Soccer: Keeping regularly scheduled games Youth Center Open Rec: normal hours
Instructional Gymnastics (YC): Regularly scheduled classes

Education Center: CLOSED on Saturday
Library: CLOSED on Saturday

Pacific Coast Club: Not open on Saturdays, will be open on Sunday at 10:00 a.m.-until last football game (normal hours)
Breakers: normal hours

Fitness Center Annex: OPEN (will be staffed during normal Sat fitness hours 8:00 a.m.-8 p.m.)
Fitness Center: CLOSED
Pool: CLOSED

Auto Hobby Shop: normal hours
Outdoor Recreation: normal hours, Santa Barbara trip is a go
Bowling: normal hours
Rod & Gun Club: CLOSED FOR WEEKEND

Lodging: OPEN
.

For updates please check the Vandenberg AFB website at www.vandenberg.af.mil.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday September 23, 2016
Release No. 201609-032

OAK CANYON FIRE - UPDATE

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – As of 1:20 p.m. a fire was reported on Vandenberg AFB property in Oak Canyon, north of the Lompoc Correctional Complex. The fire is approximately 30 acres and is spreading to the south.

Firefighters are responding from the Vandenberg AFB, Santa Barbara County and Lompoc Fire Departments.

Firefighters are responding with air drops, engine crews, and bull dozers.

For updates please check the Vandenberg AFB website at www.vandenberg.af.mil.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday September 23, 2016
Release No. 201609-031

WASHINGTON INCIDENT FIRE – UPDATE

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – As of 7:00 a.m. on Sept. 23, the fire on North Base is under control. The burn area is estimated to be 215 acres. There was minimal fire activity overnight and the fire crews made good progress establishing precautionary fire breaks and structure defenses for several buildings on the base.

Significant amounts of fire retardant were dropped on parts of North Base by aircraft during the fire response yesterday. Personnel may see the retardant on the ground or buildings. The retardant does not present any health risk. However, it can be an irritant to skin or eyes. Should any base personnel come in contact with the retardant, they should wash their hands and flush their eyes.

The 30th Medical Group continues to monitor the air quality on VAFB. The air quality index is currently "Good" on Vandenberg Air Force Base and in the Lompoc area. During the evening and overnight yesterday, there were periods of "Moderate" readings in both areas. However, levels returned to "Good" this morning.

As for the South Base fire, it remains at 90 percent contained and the fire burn area remains at 12,518 acres. Fire crews will continue mopping up hot spots and monitoring the fire perimeter.

The Command Post has returned to their location in Bldg. 10577. If needed, they can be contacted at 805-606-9961.

For updates please check the Vandenberg AFB website at www.vandenberg.af.mil.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday September 23, 2016
Release No. 201609-030

WASHINGTON INCIDENT FIRE – UPDATE

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – As of 4:00 a.m. on Sep. 23, the fire on North Base is estimated to be 250 acres. At this time, the fire is controlled, but the exact containment percentage is unknown.

Only Mission Essential Personnel will report to work on 23 Sep. All other military personnel are requested to remain on 6-ring alert.

Base Housing is NOT in the path of the fire. Current weather forecasts call for winds from the north, which will continue to keep the fire away from residential areas.

Lompoc Unified School District will remain open. Bus schedules are unaffected.

CDC, Youth Center, Commissary, Gas Station and the Breakers Dining Facility will remain open for normal business hours.

The 30th Medical Group will be closed for patient care. All emergencies should be directed to your local emergency center. For other medical concerns contact the nurse advice line at 606-CARE (2273).

Santa Maria Gate, Lompoc Gate, Solvang Gate - Normal Operations

Utah Gate - Open for housing personnel, Crestview Elementary, Youth Center, and Child Development Center. Utah Gate will close at 9:00 a.m. and will resume normal gate operations.

Civilian Administrative Leave is authorized by order of the Wing Commander.

For updates please check the Vandenberg AFB website at www.vandenberg.af.mil.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday September 22, 2016
Release No. 201609-029

WASHINGTON INCIDENT FIRE – UPDATE

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – As of 7:30 p.m. on September 22, the fire on North Base is estimated to be 250 acres. At this time, the fire is controlled, but the exact containment percentage is unknown.

Only Mission Essential Personnel will report to work on 23 Sep. All other military personnel are requested to remain on 6-ring alert.

Base Housing is NOT in the path of the fire. Current weather forecasts call for winds from the north, which will continue to keep the fire away from residential areas.

Lompoc Unified School District will remain open. Bus schedules are unaffected.

CDC, Youth Center, Commissary, Gas Station and the Breakers Dining Facility will remain open for normal business hours.

The 30th Medical Group will be closed for patient care. All emergencies should be directed to your local emergency center. For other medical concerns contact the nurse advice line at 606-CARE (2273).

Civilian Administrative Leave is authorized by order of the Wing Commander.

For updates please check the Vandenberg AFB website at www.vandenberg.af.mil.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday September 22, 2016
Release No. 201609-027

EXOTIC CAR SHOW CANCELLED

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – The 30th Force Support Squadron sponsored exotic car show scheduled for Saturday September 24 is cancelled due to ongoing firefighting efforts on North and South Base.

As updates become available they will be posted to www.vandenberg.af.mil.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday September 22, 2016
Release No. 201609-026

AIRFIELD ROAD FIRE – UPDATE 5

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – Message to all base housing residents:

Base housing is **NOT** at risk from the fire on North Base.

Crews are actively battling the fire on North Base. As of right now, the fire appears to have been started by a downed power line and is not associated with the Canyon Fire on South Base.

The fire is outside the housing area and winds are pushing the fire south, which is further away from housing.

For tonight and tomorrow, winds are forecasted to continue to push the fire south and further from housing.

As updates become available they will be posted to www.vandenberg.af.mil.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday September 22, 2016
Release No. 201609-024

AIRFIELD ROAD FIRE – UPDATE 4

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – The Utah Gate is open for Base Housing residents ONLY.

No traffic is to proceed beyond the control points.

For updates please check the Vandenberg AFB website at www.vandenberg.af.mil.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday September 22, 2016
Release No. 201609-023

AIRPORT ROAD FIRE – UPDATE 3

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – The fire on North Base is unrelated to the Canyon Fire on South Base.

Preliminary reports attribute the fire to a downed powerline due to high winds.

Firefighters supporting the South Base fire are assisting on North Base.

All inbound traffic to Vandenberg AFB is closed until further notice.

For updates please check the Vandenberg AFB website at www.vandenberg.af.mil.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday September 22, 2016
Release No. 201609-022

AIRPORT ROAD FIRE - UPDATE

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – The fire is spreading south due to high winds.

Buildings that are at risk are being evacuated.

There is no risk to Base Housing.

For updates please check the Vandenberg AFB website at www.vandenberg.af.mil.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday September 22, 2016
Release No. 201609-021

VANDENBERG AIRFIELD ROAD FIRE – MANDATORY EVACUATIONS

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – The following buildings are to evacuate: 12000, 12006, 7000 complex, Gym, Airman and Family Readiness Center, FAMCAMP, Flight Line Complex, and POL building. All personnel are to proceed to the Commissary.

Personnel on the AETC campus (Training Group) are to evacuate to the Base Parade Grounds near Building 1777.

Fire teams are responding. There is no risk to personnel at this time. Smoke will be visible from base housing and on North Base.

All personnel should avoid the area between 13th street, Washington Ave. and Airfield road.

For updates please check the Vandenberg AFB website at www.vandenberg.af.mil.

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!HOT LAUNCH! Airfield Road Fire !HOT LAUNCH!

The Hot Launch carries command messages, emergency messages and force protection change notifications.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

There is a small vegetation fire on North Base. This fire is not related to the fire on South Base. The fire is near building 12000, which is the Communications Squadron building.

Fire teams are responding. There is no risk to personnel at this time. Smoke will be visible from base housing and on North Base.
All personnel should avoid the area between 13th street, Washington Ave., and Airfield road.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday September 22, 2016
Release No. 201609-018

VANDENBERG AFB WILDLAND FIRE - UPDATE

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – The 30th Space Wing leadership announced that as of 7:00 a.m., the Canyon Fire is still 70 percent contained. The Canyon Fire has burned 12,518 acres on South Base, however there was minimal fire activity overnight. Today the fire crews are finishing construction of containment lines, eliminating hot spots and working to minimize long-term environmental impacts. In spite of forecast strong winds in the area, firefighters appear confident they will continue to make good progress through the day.

Specialized teams from 30th Space Wing are now re-entering South Base to assess preliminary damage and to ensure facilities are safe for recovery crews to begin returning South Vandenberg to normal operations.

According to Santa Barbara County Fire, all off-base evacuation orders were lifted as of 6:00 a.m. this morning.

For updates please check the Vandenberg AFB website at www.vandenberg.af.mil.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday September 21, 2016
Release No. 201609-017

CANYON FIRE SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – Base officials announced today that the Canyon Fire burning on Vandenberg's South Base is now 70% contained. The 1,142 firefighters currently battling the 12,000 acre blaze made considerable progress over the course of the day establishing new containment lines and reinforcing existing lines. With this progress, the base has begun initial effort to assess damage and develop recovery plans.

Favorable weather throughout the day and a marine layer that lasted until late morning dampened temperatures and kept the fire activity to moderate levels, which allowed fire teams to work aggressively against the fire.

Base officials reported that there was minimal damage to the Union Pacific Railroad tracks through Vandenberg AFB and that train service is able to resume within the fire area.

As fire officials look toward the weekend, northwest winds are forecasted to reach 45 miles-per-hour tomorrow and then switch direction to off shore starting Friday. Crews will monitor the fire area for potential flare ups due to the winds.

This morning a vehicle accident on Highway 246, east of Lompoc claimed the life of a fire engineer and injured a fire fighter from Ventura County. The responders were assigned to California Office of Emergency Services Water Tender 12, which was supporting helicopter operations for the fire response.

For updates please check the Vandenberg AFB website at www.vandenberg.af.mil.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday September 21, 2016
Release No. 201609-016

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY - UPDATE

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – The 30th Medical Group continued conducting Air Quality checks on North Base throughout the night. The Reading currently is showing in the "Good" range on the Environmental Protection Agency Air Quality Index.

Overnight, a few of the readings slightly reached into the "Moderate" range. In the "Moderate" range, smoke can be an irritant to eyes and nose, but does not pose a health hazard. "Moderate" air quality is only a concern for those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution. When air quality is "Moderate", those individuals should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion if they experience coughing or shortness of breath. If you experience prolonged symptoms, please take precautions and remain indoors.

As of 7:00 a.m., Wednesday morning, the reading on North Base is showing in the "Good" range.

For questions or concerns call the advice nurse at 606-2273, option 5.

For updates please check the Vandenberg AFB website at www.vandenberg.af.mil.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday September 21, 2016
Release No. 201609-015

VANDENBERG AFB WILDLAND FIRE - UPDATE

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – As of 7:00 a.m., the Canyon Fire has burned 12,353 acres. The fire is now 50 percent contained and 1,056 firefighters from Vandenberg AFB, U.S. Forestry, Cal Fire, and Santa Barbara County Fire are combatting the blaze.

Crews saw very little growth in the fire overnight, due in part to the heavy marine layer and calm winds. This allowed ground teams to further bolster containment lines along base boundaries and around key launch support facilities. Firefighting aircraft are expected to return to the area this morning to battle the blaze ahead of anticipated increases in wind speed, which could gust as high as 30mph later in the week.

More information to follow as the situation develops.

For updates please check the Vandenberg AFB website at www.vandenberg.af.mil.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday September 21, 2016

VANDENBERG AFB WILDLAND FIRE - UPDATE

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. –As of 11:00 p.m. on 20 September, base fire officials said the fire boundary is relatively stable. The fire continues to burn along portions of the south-east ridgelines, however fire teams assess these are not likely to spread beyond containment lines.

Overnight tonight, a specially-equipped aircraft will survey the fire boundary to determine its size and location. Using infrared heat detection, the aircraft will gather data that is used to build a map of the fire. Fire officials are hopeful the flight tonight will show gains made over the course of the day.

Weather forecasts indicate that winds tomorrow will blow to the northwest. This is expected to aid firefighting efforts by pushing the fire toward areas that have already burned. Over the course of the day tomorrow, fire crews will concentrate their efforts from the northwest portion of the fire area in order to stem the fire's spread in that direction, and to provide additional protection for the base's space launch complexes.

The 1,000 firefighters deployed to the fire are making steady progress. However, fire officials caution that even with the recent gains, hot spots will likely linger for several days. With increased winds expected on Thursday, these hot spots will need to be monitored to ensure that no new fires ignite.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday September 20, 2016
Release No. 201609-013

CANYON FIRE SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – Base fire officials said that as of 8:00 p.m. on September 20, there are 1,056 firefighters from over 50 agencies battling the wildland fire on Vandenberg's South Base that began September 17. Officials estimate that the Canyon Fire is currently 12,000 acres and is 45% contained.

Cooler weather aided fire crews with building containment lines along the eastern edge of the fire today. The fire remained active on the northern portions, however, crews were able to engage the front line of the blaze directly and successfully established several containment lines along that front.

Cooler and more favorable weather conditions are predicted for tonight over the fire area. As conditions allow, fire crews will continue to look for opportunities to extend existing containment lines and to build ones.

Teams established robust defenses and fire breaks along the fire's east and west boundaries today. Tomorrow, teams will work to strengthen those areas to further protect the base's critical launch complexes and prevent the fire from spreading off of base property.

For updates please check the Vandenberg AFB website at www.vandenberg.af.mil.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday September 20, 2016
Release No. 201609-012

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY - UPDATE

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. –

Team V, the 30th Medical Group has been conducting Air Quality checks on North Base at the fitness track, Child Development Center and Base Housing. All readings have been in the "Good" range on the EPA Air Quality Index.

This means the smoke is an irritant to eyes and nose, but does not pose a long term health hazard.

If you become symptomatic please take precautions and remain indoors. For questions or concerns call the advice nurse at 606-2273, option 5.

For updates please check the Vandenberg AFB website at www.vandenberg.af.mil.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday September 20, 2016
Release No. 201609-011

VANDENBERG AFB CANYON FIRE PRESS CONFERENCE

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – There will be a press conference for local media regarding the Canyon Fire on South Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA, today, Sept. 20 at 2:00 p.m. PDT. All media wishing to attend the press conference are encouraged to meet at the Santa Maria Main Gate on Hwy 1 and park in the Visitor Control Center parking lot.

For updates please check the Vandenberg AFB website at www.vandenberg.af.mil.

For questions regarding the conference please contact (805) 606-3595.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday September 20, 2016
Release No. 201609-010

VANDENBERG AFB WILDLAND FIRE - UPDATE

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – As of 7:30 a.m., the Canyon Fire has burned 10,542 acres. The fire is now 18 percent contained and 633 firefighters from Vandenberg AFB, U.S. Forestry, Cal Fire, and Santa Barbara County Fire are combatting the blaze.

The fire was very active yesterday, growing by approximately 6,000 acres. Most of the growth was to the west and the north. However, fire teams made strong progress along the south and east portions of the fire.

Despite the progress made yesterday, the fire remains significant and unpredictable. For safety reasons and to prevent any interference with the fire response, South Base access continues to be limited to emergency personnel only.

30th Security Forces have established road blocks along West Ocean Avenue to minimize traffic congestion and to facilitate fire response forces entering and leaving South Base. Base officials are asking personnel to remain clear of West Ocean Avenue between Vandenberg's North and South base.

Today fire crews will continue to build direct and indirect containment lines. Direct lines are constructed along the active fire perimeter when fire intensity is low. Indirect lines are constructed ahead of the active fire perimeter. Fire managers are utilizing crews with hand tools and bulldozers to construct containment lines on the base property.

A team of Resource Advisors are supporting the fire response by locating and identify natural and cultural resources threatened by the fire. Some of these resources include cultural sites related to the Chumash people, wildlife habitats, and watershed concerns.

More information to follow as the situation develops, and the current situation is subject to change.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday September 19, 2016
Release No. 201609-009

VANDENBERG AFB WILDLAND FIRE - UPDATE

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – Base officials estimate that the fire has expanded to over 6000 acres. Approximately 600 firefighters from over 50 agencies are combatting the blaze.

This afternoon the fire intensified due to increased winds and terrain, which moved the flames closer to developed areas of South base and toward launch facilities. Officials evacuated this part of the base as a precautionary measure.

The fire growth is expected to slow tonight due to cooler temperatures and higher humidity. Crews will continue reinforcing containment lines through the night and airdrops will continue at sunrise.

More information to follow as the situation develops, and the current situation is subject to change.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday September 19, 2016
Release No. 201609-008

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. -- The 30th Medical Group is monitoring the air quality at Vandenberg AFB North Base. As of 5:20 p.m. today, the air quality on Vandenberg's North Base is normal. Air quality sampling will continue throughout the night.

Individuals sensitive to smoke including children, pregnant women, the elderly, and individuals with heart and respiratory conditions should limit their exposure. Suggested actions include:

- Limit time spent outdoors, where exposures to smoke will be greatest.
- Limit outdoor exercise, as your air intake (as well as smoke intake) will be increased.
- Keep indoor air as clean as possible by closing windows and doors.
- Consider turning off ventilation system that draw air from outside.

For questions regarding air quality please contact Bio Environmental Engineering at 606-7811.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sep 19, 2016

CREWS FIGHT VANDENBERG AFB WILDLAND FIRE - UPDATE

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – Due to predicted expansion of the fire through the course of the day, we are limiting access on Vandenberg South Base to emergency personnel only.

Please refer to www.vandenberg.af.mil for the latest updates.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday September 19, 2016
Release No. 201609-007

CREWS FIGHT VANDENBERG AFB WILDLAND FIRE - UPDATE

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – The Canyon Fire on south Vandenberg AFB grew to 4,528 acres Sunday night, continuing to burn at what responders describe as a "slow to moderate speed".

In the early hours of Monday morning, fire teams used a helicopter to map fire lines and evaluate progress. Understanding the precise boundaries of the fire will allow the commanding fire chief to more effectively distribute fire personnel and resources.

As of 7:30 a.m. PDT, the fire is 0% contained, according to officials. However, Vandenberg AFB firefighters assisted by U.S. Forestry Service, CalFire and Santa Barbara County fire crews are making progress in their efforts to contain the fire as it moves towards the southern base boundary and the Sudden Ranch area.

The fire has caused power outages in several facilities on south base. Those buildings are currently operating on generator power. Civil Engineers will sustain the generators until downed electrical lines can be repaired and commercial power is restored to base facilities.

Vandenberg AFB fire fighter and security forces are assessing possible causes. However, at this time, the cause of the fire is unknown.

More information to follow as the situation develops, and the current situation is subject to change.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday September 18, 2016
Release No. 201609-006

CREWS FIGHT VANDENBERG AFB WILDLAND FIRE - UPDATE

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – The 1,200 acre Canyon Fire on south Vandenberg, Sept. 18, 2016, is burning at what responders describe as a "slow to moderate speed".

Vandenberg AFB firefighters, assisted by U.S. Forestry Service, CalFire, and Santa Barbara County fire crews, continue to work around the clock fighting the fire, however as of 1:47 p.m. it remained zero percent contained.

Multiple protective measures such as aggressive air tanker drops, new fire breaks cut by Vandenberg and Santa Barbara County bulldozers, and attacking spot fires directly by engine crews are being employed by the 230+ firefighters on scene.

Vandenberg AFB Civil Engineers are also working to mitigate power outage caused by the fire burning in the remote VAFB canyon between Arguello and Santa Ynez Ridge Roads.

As additional responders arrive to assist in the efforts to fight the fire, on and off-base residents are directed to avoid the South Vandenberg AFB area. Effective immediately and until further notice, only mission-essential personnel, as designated by their commander, will be granted access to South Base. Mission-essential personnel who work north of Mesa Road in the South Base cantonment area should utilize the South Base gate to access South base. Mission-essential

personnel who work at facilities along Coast Road should enter through the Coast Gate. All others should contact their supervisory chain for reporting instructions.

There is no restriction for North Base activities. Personnel working on North Base should report for duty using normal procedures.

More information to follow as the situation develops, and the current situation is subject to change.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday September 18, 2016
Release No. 201609-005

VANDENBERG AFB CANYON FIRE PRESS CONFERENCE

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – There will be a press conference for local media regarding the Canyon Fire on South Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA at 2:00 p.m. PDT. All media wishing to attend the press conference are encouraged to meet at the South Base gate on Arguello Road and Ocean Ave and park at the adjacent parking lot.

For updates please check the Vandenberg AFB website at www.vandenberg.af.mil.

For questions regarding the conference please contact (805) 606-3595.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday September 18, 2016
Release No. 201609-004

CREWS FIGHT VANDENBERG AFB WILDLAND FIRE

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – Close to 800 Vandenberg AFB, U.S. Forestry Service, CalFire, and Santa Barbara County fire fighters continue to battle the nearly 500 acre wildland fire on south Vandenberg, Sept. 18.

In addition to the hand-crews and bulldozers, air assets are expected to rejoin Sunday morning according to Vandenberg Fire Chief Clem Marrero.

“We’re using Santa Barbara County helicopters and aircraft based out of Santa Maria and Paso Robles airports,” said Marrero.

Though our facilities are intact, some power lines have been damaged as the fire is located in a remote canyon between Arguello and Santa Ynez Ridge Roads.

“The team work exhibited between the Santa Barbara County, CalFire, U.S. Forestry Service and Air Force firefighters is why we have been as successful as we have been fighting this blaze,” said Lt. Col. Edward Simpson, Emergency Operations Center Director. “We are grateful to have their support.”

-MORE-

The launch of an Atlas V rocket was scheduled for lift off on Sept. 18 with a commercial imaging satellite.

More information to follow as the situation develops.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sep 18, 2016

VANDENBERG AFB LAUNCH DELAYED

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – The south Vandenberg AFB wildland fire that began on Sept. 17, has delayed the Atlas V launch scheduled for Sept. 18.

"Our procedures require stand-by firefighting crews for every launch to ensure safety of our personnel and facility protection," said Col. Paul Nosek, Emergency Operations Center commander. "We've delayed the launch in order to concentrate our resources on the situation at hand."

No facilities have been damaged by the fire in the remote canyon between Arguello and Santa Ynez Roads.

According to Col. Paul Nosek, no space launch complexes or critical range assets are in immediate danger.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sep 17, 2016

WILDLAND FIRE AT VANDENBERG - UPDATE

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – Fire crews from Vandenberg AFB and Santa Barbara County continue to fight a wildland fire on south Vandenberg, September 17.

No facilities or infrastructure have been damaged, as the fire is located in a remote canyon between Arguello and Santa Ynez Roads, and crews work to contain the blaze.

According to Col. Paul Nosek, Emergency Operations Center commander, no space launch complexes or critical range assets are in immediate danger.

An Atlas V rocket is scheduled to lift off September 18 with a commercial imaging satellite.

More information to follow as the situation develops.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sep 17, 2016

WILDLAND FIRE AT VANDENBERG

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – Fire crews from Vandenberg Air Force Base and Santa Barbara County are responding to a wildland fire on Vandenberg AFB, South Base, Saturday, September 17.

The fire, named the Canyon Incident, is affecting 50 acres near Arguello and Santa Ynez Ridge roads.

Approximately 250 firefighters including hand-crews, bulldozers, and air assets are on-site.

More information to follow as the situation develops.

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