



# The Herald

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

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### Herald question of the day

How prepared are you for a natural disaster such as a wildfire?

- Well prepared
- Somewhat prepared
- Not prepared

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Herald surveys are unscientific

## Moth spraying resumes tonight on Peninsula

FOUR DAYS PLANNED

By DANIEL LOPEZ  
Herald Staff Writer

With a court order that halted spraying to combat the light brown apple moth out of the way, the controversial state eradication project is scheduled to resume tonight.

The aerial spraying of a synthetic pheromone called Check-Mate is the second round of application over the Peninsula. Three airplanes will fly over a 60-square-mile area from Marina to portions of Pebble Beach between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. tonight through Saturday, covering the same area sprayed in early September — weather permitting.

"There's always a chance that fog or wind could come up in that area," said Jay Van Rein, spokesman for the state Department of Food and Agriculture.

The state's tentative plan for today is to spray from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. over portions of Marina,

### On the Web

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See our Web site to learn more about this topic.

Seaside and Sand City, then from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. over Monterey, Pacific Grove, Del Rey Oaks and Carmel.

Residents in the area have objected to the spraying since summer, when the state announced its intention to control the invasive moth through aerial spraying.

After the first spraying in September, more than 100 people complained of becoming ill. Most attributed their symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, to the spraying.

The environmental group Helping Our Peninsula's

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## Fanned fires force record evacuation

MORE THAN 500,000 PEOPLE FLEE; GOVERNOR VOWS TO SEND EXTRA HELP



DENIS POROY/Associated Press

Above: A California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection helicopter moves in close to the flames to make a water drop in Escondido. Top: Kristina Ford, right, hugs neighbor Fran Meyers as they watch efforts to save Ford's home in Poway, where at least a dozen homes were destroyed Tuesday. Meyers did not know the fate of her home.

Former judge could appeal to U.S. Supreme Court

## State won't review Velasquez removal

By VIRGINIA HENNESSEY  
Herald Salinas Bureau

The California Supreme Court has denied a request to review Judge Jose Angel Velasquez's removal from the Monterey County bench.

The decision makes final the state Commission on Judicial Performance's decision to strip Velasquez of his judgeship for misconduct that included denying defendants required hearings, increasing their sentences for asking questions in court and failing to advise suspects that they can plead not guilty.

"He could always go to the U.S. Supreme Court," said commission director Victoria

Henley, "but he has exhausted his legal remedies in California."

She declined further comment.

A spokeswoman for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said Velasquez would have 90 days to appeal the decision to the nation's high court.

It was unknown Tuesday whether Velasquez will take that final step. He could not be reached for comment. His attorney, James Friedhofer of San Diego, had been evacuated from his home because of fires there and said via e-mail that he could not immediately respond to a request for comment.

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Jose Velasquez  
State has barred him from serving as a judge.

## Turkey pressures Western allies

MILITARY DRIVE INTO IRAQ REMAINS A POSSIBILITY

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA  
Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Turkey delivered a tough message to Iraq and Western allies Tuesday: A cross-border attack on Kurd guerrilla bases is coming unless the U.S.-backed government in the Iraqi north cracks down soon.

"We cannot wait forever," Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned during a visit to London, saying his government had no choice but to consider "the military dimension."

As Erdogan's government launched the diplomatic offensive in hopes of avoiding a conflict that could damage its ties with the West as well as Arab states, the looming possibility of a Turkish military drive into one

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U.S. strikes kill 11 Iraqis. **A6**  
Rice orders better oversight of private security. **A6**

of Iraq's few peaceful regions appeared to be having an impact.

Washington issued its most direct demand yet for anti-rebel measures from Iraqi Kurds who hold effective autonomy over territory where the Turkish Kurd rebels have camps, and Iraq's prime minister ordered the closure of all of the guerrilla movement's offices in Iraq.

Turks have grown skeptical of repeated pledges from the U.S. and Iraq to tackle the rebel Kurdistan Workers' Party, the PKK,

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By ALLISON HOFFMAN and GILLIAN FLAGGUS  
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Deadly, wind-whipped wildfires have triggered the largest evacuation in state history, prompting more than 500,000 people to flee ahead of flames that destroyed more than 1,300 homes and continued Tuesday to threaten tens of thousands more.

The number of people joining the mandatory exodus — and the number of homes destroyed — was expected to grow as new fires started and others continued to burn a path toward the sea through populated communities.

"This is the largest mass evacuation of a natural disaster in California history," said Daniel Berlant, spokesman for the state's Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

In San Diego County, authorities placed

evacuation calls to more than 346,000 homes, said Luis Monteagudo, a spokesman for the county's emergency effort.

The county estimates, based on census tracts, that approximately 560,000 people were ordered to leave, said Ron Roberts, chairman of the San Diego Board of Supervisors.

To the northeast, fires in the San Bernardino mountains forced the evacuation of entire communities surrounding the resort area of Lake Arrowhead.

Thousands of people, including hospital patients, were forced to flee advancing flames that leaped through the mountains, burning one home after another, destroying at least 300 and threatening as many as 10,000 more, said U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman Gina Sampson.

In neighboring Orange County, a fire chief

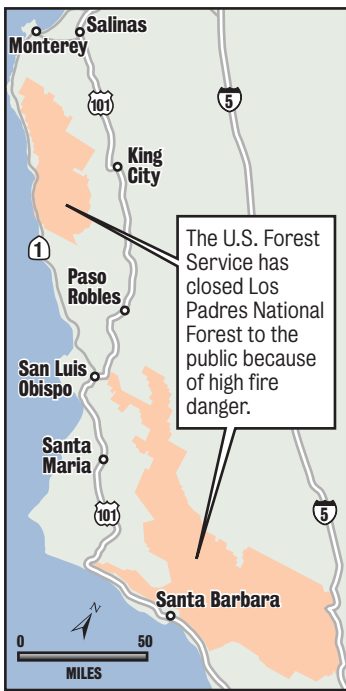
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### Wildfires by the numbers

- 12** Number of uncontained fires
- 375,000** Number of acres burned so far
- 1,300** Number of homes destroyed
- 500,000** Number of people evacuated because of the fires.

### On the Web

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See our Web site for an AP video from the Southern California wildfires.



JAMES HERRERA/The Herald

"We're way on the side of caution and safety."

— C.L. Price, park superintendent for the Big Sur sector

## Los Padres closed to public; 'severe' fire warning in effect

By JULIA REYNOLDS  
Herald Staff Writer

Federal and state officials on the Central Coast took emergency steps Tuesday in response to increased fire risk, as more than a dozen wildfires ravaged Southern California.

Jan Bray, spokeswoman with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, said a red flag warning remained in effect until at least 6 a.m. today for the interior of Monterey County and all of San Benito County because of winds blowing from the east and low humidity. The area at risk is approximately the Salinas Valley corridor from Highway 101 east, Bray said.

According to the state's Office of Emergency Services, the red flag warning for Monterey County reflects critical fire weather conditions that are "severe" and "immediate."

And in an emergency move Tuesday, Los Padres National Forest was closed to the public.

Park supervisor Peggy Hernandez noted "current extreme fire activity, ... very low fuel moisture and fire suppression resources being stretched to the limit" as reasons for the decision, and said the closure would remain in effect until extreme fire and weather conditions subside.

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