

CHECK OCREGISTER.COM FOR THE LATEST FIRE INFORMATION

CLOSURES • EVACUATIONS • VIDEO • FIRE HOT SPOTS • PHOTO SLIDE SHOWS • READER CONTRIBUTIONS

BLANKETED BY SMOKE

Fires race through the area as dry heat persists.

REGISTER STAFF AND NEWS SERVICES

Low humidity and temperatures in the 90s bedeviled efforts by firefighters to contain more than a dozen wildfires that raged for a third day Tuesday across Southern California.

One person is dead, more than 500,000 have had to evacuate, and more than 1,800 homes have been destroyed, mostly in San Diego County.

The weather forecast promises little relief.

"This is the largest mass evacuation of a

SEE FIRES • PAGE 2

What you need to know

THE WEATHER: Fading Santa Ana winds and rising humidity are expected today. Temperatures should rise to the mid-90s again, contributing to ongoing fire danger. **NEWS 11**

ON THE ROADS: The 241 toll road has reopened, and Metrolink trains are set to run on schedule. For closure information, call 714-628-7085 or go to www.ocfa.org or www.chp.ca.gov.

HEALTH TIPS: Air-quality officials have kept their health warning in place. Try to stay inside, with doors and windows shut. **NEWS 11**

GETTING TO SCHOOL: Check your school's Web site. Decisions for many should be made today. Confirmed closed: Silverado Elementary School. **NEWS 16**

HOT SPOTS

1 AREA BY LAKE ARROWHEAD

- At least two fires burning
- 425 homes destroyed
- One injury
- 5,000 acres burned

News 4

2 ORANGE COUNTY

- At least 10 homes and buildings destroyed.
- No injuries reported
- 18,000 acres burned
- 30 percent contained

News 1, 14-15

3 SAN DIEGO COUNTY

- At least seven fires burning
- One resident killed, seven firefighters injured, 513,000 evacuated
- 1,150 homes and businesses destroyed
- 235,000 acres burned

News 3

« This photo

Winds are expected to reverse Thursday, bringing the smoke plumes seen in this satellite image taken Tuesday back over Southern California. (Photo courtesy of NASA)

Fires on TV

For coverage of area fires, watch "Daybreak OC" on KDOC from 6 to 8 a.m.

MORE INSIDE

RESOURCES: The fires scorching Southern California pushed state resources past their limits the past three days, leaving some officials to question whether the state did enough to prepare for disasters. Central to the debate is a system in which each jurisdiction depends on the state for resources to fight major wildfires. **News 8**

BUSINESSES: Retailers, restaurants and fast-food chains closed stores in San Diego County and have seen sales shrink in Orange County. Many are donating goods and services to aid fire victims and those battling the blazes. **Marketplace 1**

ADVICE: Amy Bach, co-author of "The Disaster Recovery Handbook," written after the 1991 Oakland Hills/Berkeley fire, offers tips. **Marketplace 1**



BRUCE CHAMBERS, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

CONSUMED: A house on Modjeska Canyon Road is left to burn while firefighters protect nearby homes.

HOMEOWNER FIGHTS FOR HIS FAMILY'S HOUSE

A Portola Hills couple and their three kids scrambled to save their belongings as a fire burned nearby. Then the flames crested the hill behind their house.

NEWS 10

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WEATHER

Today ☀ 87° 98°
Tonight ☁ 61° 59°
COAST INLAND

WEATHER REPORT ON LOCAL 10

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