



A HOME burns in El Cariso near Lake Elsinore. The Airport fire has charred more than 20,000 acres in Orange and Riverside counties.

WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

FIRES BURN OVER 100,000 ACRES

Three major blazes in the Southland have destroyed dozens of homes and strained firefighting resources.

BY HANNAH FRY,
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SUMMER LIN,
ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
AND GINA FERAZZI

Three fast-moving wild-fires have burned homes, caused injuries and scorched more than 100,000 acres across Southern California in a matter of days, leaving firefighting resources dangerously thin as crews attempt to assess damage and gain control over the blazes.

The largest of the three, the Bridge fire, broke out Sunday in Angeles National Forest and exploded from 4,000 acres to 49,000 acres between Tuesday and early Wednesday, growing more than 12 times in size.

Fueled by days of extreme heat, winds and bone-dry brush, the fire prompted evacuations in a number of mountain hamlets, towns and resorts along Highway 2, with towering flames jumping across hillsides and canyons. Twenty homes have been destroyed in Mount Baldy, 13 homes in Wrightwood and six cabins in the wilderness area. About 2,500 structures are threatened by the fire, officials said.

“This is currently the largest active fire in the state of California,” L.A. County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone said during a news conference. “Our priority remains the protection of life and structure and infrastructure defense.”

At least 13 people, including several firefighters, have been injured in the Airport fire, which has charred thousands of acres in Riverside and Orange counties, and in the Line fire in San Bernardino County.

Officials have not determined what sparked the Bridge fire. The Airport fire [See Fires, A6]

Mountain town adapts to chaos

Running Springs dealt with deadly blizzard last year, now faces flames

BY JACK FLEMMING

The San Bernardino Mountains are under siege once again.

A year and a half after a blizzard buried neighborhoods up to the eaves in snow, the Line fire is raging on the mountainside, torching thousands of acres and forcing communities to evacuate.

The flames brought a veil of smoke and a hint of chaos to Running Springs on Tuesday—ash and angst, looming skies of orange and gray.

Folks in Running Springs have been here before: the burning eyes, scratchy throats, time eking by as they anxiously awaited their fate. As firefighters battled flames a few miles [See Line fire, A7]



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

A FIREFIGHTER shields his eyes against blowing embers from a burning horse barn after the Bridge fire spread into Wrightwood.

‘Never believed it would happen’: Residents flee Wrightwood

BY NATHAN SOLIS,
HAYLEY SMITH
AND LILA SEIDMAN

WRIGHTWOOD — Visibility was at a minimum in this rustic San Gabriel Mountains town on Wednesday as flames from the explosive Bridge fire chewed through several homes and outbuildings.

Though most people were gone, a thick layer of ash coated the remnants of their lives — a satellite dish, lawn furniture, a quaint greenhouse and potted plants.

Some residents hesitated to leave at first, according to Deputy Chief Mike Inman of the Los Angeles County Fire Department, but they got the message soon enough.

[See Wrightwood, A7]



MICHAEL M. SANTIAGO Getty Images

VICE PRESIDENT Kamala Harris, President Biden, former New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, former President Trump and Sen. JD Vance at 9/11 tribute.

Trump says he did a ‘great job’ in debate. Some allies don’t buy it

BY JENNY JARVIE

After a presidential debate in which Vice President Kamala Harris baited former President Trump and put him on the defensive, Trump insisted Wednesday morning he did a “great job,” slammed the debate as “a rigged deal” and called for

ABC to be shut down.

The GOP nominee, who was widely criticized even by Republicans for his weak performance in his first face-to-face meeting with Harris, accused ABC’s debate moderators of bias during an early morning appearance on Fox News’ “Fox & Friends.”

“It was three on one,”

Trump said, accusing the moderators, David Muir and Linsey Davis, of heavily fact-checking his statements but not doing the same for Harris. “I thought I did a great job.”

Fox’s chief political analyst disagreed.

“Make no mistake about it: Trump had a bad night,”

[See Debate, A5]

In endorsing Harris, Taylor Swift unleashes a new level of swagger

MIKAEL WOOD
POP MUSIC CRITIC

As Donald Trump raged on (and on) about the size of his rally crowds and about immigrants supposedly eating the pets of the good people of Springfield, Ohio, Kamala Harris looked at her opponent in Tuesday night’s presidential debate with a blend of scorn, pity and disbelief that made me think about Taylor Swift’s song “The Smallest Man Who Ever Lived,” in which she coolly dissects a guy whose long con has finally run out.

Perhaps Swift saw something of herself too: Moments after the debate ended, the pop superstar endorsed Harris in a lengthy post on Instagram, where she has more than 283 million followers.

“Like many of you, I watched the debate tonight,” she wrote, describing her determination to “watch and read every-

5 takeaways from the debate

Harris clearly got under Trump’s skin, but did she help voters get to know her? **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

Friendly viewers on Harris’ old turf

Supporters at watch parties take pride in one of the Bay Area’s own. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

thing” she can about the presidential candidates’ “proposed policies and plans for this country.” Harris will be getting her vote, she added, “because she fights for the rights and causes I believe need a warrior to champion them.”

Swift’s endorsement of Harris was probably inevitable.

In 2018, after years of staying out of politics, she told her fans that she planned to vote for

[See Swift, A5]

Judicial revamp OKd in Mexico

Demonstrators protest with pipes and chains as lawmakers approve president’s proposal. **WORLD, A3**

Hurricane hits Louisiana coast

The Category 2 storm could bring flooding and destructive winds to the northern U.S. Gulf Coast. **NATION, A4**

U.S. inflation hits 3-year low

Fed prepares to cut interest rates as gas, other prices drop. But housing costs rose faster. **BUSINESS, A8**

Weather Partly sunny.

L.A. Basin: 80/64. **B6**

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