

First District News



Kern County Board of Supervisors

June 29, 2016

Edition 1, Volume 3

THE ERSKINE FIRE

A Tragedy in Our Community and For All Kern County

The County is deploying all of its resources to gain control of the Erskine Fire near Lake Isabella and to help victims of the fire to deal with the devastating loss of life and property caused by this terrible disaster.

I am very proud of the strength and the breadth of the County's response, which shows the importance of teamwork and the value of every department to the public. Kern County firefighters and sheriff's officers have protected residents from harm and are battling this destructive and fast moving fire.

The County's mental health evaluation team and our Aging and Adult Services staff are seeing to the material and emotional needs of the survivors, many of whom have lost everything.

So many of the places that were destroyed in the fire were homes to animals, and Animal Services staff are caring for these survivors and working to find homes for them.

The Erskine Fire has been a most humbling experience. It is a reminder that while some of us

are fortunate to live near the beauty of nature, in an instant, nature can show its other face, sending us the most destructive fire in Kern County's history.

It was humbling to witness the courage of our first responders as they risked their own lives to keep people safe from this inferno. And it has been heart-wrenching to hear people's stories of personal loss, each of which is a tragedy in itself.

We hope to have the fire under control soon, and we will continue the long and painful process of helping our residents put their lives back together in the wake of this tragedy.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if there is any way we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mick Gleason".

Mick Gleason, Supervisor
Kern County, First District

FIRE UPDATE: As of June 29th, the Erskine fire is 60% contained. 46,684 acres have burned, 275 structures have been destroyed, and there have been 2 confirmed fatalities. It is estimated that fire crews will achieve 100% containment by Thursday, June 30th. All evacuees are now allowed to return to their homes if possible.

Two shelters remain in operation for those who have lost their homes until further notice: **St. Jude's Catholic Church** (86 Nellie Dent Dr., Wofford Heights) and **Kernville Elementary School** (13350 Sierra Way, Kernville).

A Local Assistance Center (LAC) has been opened at **Woodrow W. Wallace Middle School** (3240 Erskine Creek Road). This center will serve as a one stop shop for information on disaster relief, how to replace lost records, and how to apply for assistance. The LAC will be open **July 1st to July 10th, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM M-F, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Sat-Sun. Closed July 4th**. For additional information, please contact Wendy Benson at the Kern County Fire Department at **(661)873-2603**.

It is also suggested the people register on the Red Cross Safe and Well website at by clicking [here](#) or by calling **1-800-RED CROSS**, so loved ones can see their situation. For donations, please contact the Kern Chapter of the Red Cross at **(661)324-6427**.

ERSKINE FIRE CONTACTS & RESOURCES

Kern County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Mick Gleason, District One
(661)868-3650, (760)549-2068
district1@co.kern.ca.us

Kern County Fire Department

Office of Emergency Services
Wendy Benson, Administrative Coordinator
(661)873-2603

American Red Cross

Kern Chapter
(661)324-6427, www.redcross.org

Erskine Fire - Local Assistance Center

Woodrow W. Wallace Middle School
3240 Erskine Creek Rd., Lake Isabella

Board of Equalization

Customer Service and Disaster Relief
1(800)400-7115, www.boe.ca.gov
Taxpayer's Rights Advocate
1(888)324-2798

Kern County Recorder/Hall of Records

No Fee Vital Records Replacement
Brian Pace
(661)868-8360, paceb@co.kern.ca.us

United Way of Kern County

(661)834-1820, www.uwkern.org

Shelters

#1 - St. Jude's Catholic Church
86 Nellie Dent Dr.
Wofford Heights
#2 - Kernville Elementary School
13350 Sierra Way
Kernville

Kern County Animal Services

(661) 868-7100

California Office of Emergency Services

Jim Acosta, Emergency Services Coordinator
(562) 795-2877, Jim.Acosta@caloes.ca.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

(800) 621-3362, www.fema.gov/disaster/5131

Kern Regional Transit

(800)323-2396, [Routes & Schedules](#)

Kern County Emergency Operations Center

Home Re-entry Information
(661)873-2660

General Fire Information

(760)376-3781, inciweb.nwccg.gov/incident/4806/#

Elks Lodge

Wofford Heights
(760) 376-6475