A Look at the Thomas Fire
Ventura County Operational Area

480 Square Miles

830,000 People
Fire is a Part of the Landscape
Fire is a Part of the Landscape
What Drives a Santa Ana Wind?

1. High surface pressure builds over the Great Basin region with lower pressure off Southern Cal Coast. (*Fall-mid Spring*)

2. Air remains relatively cold across the deserts. As the air extends through the mountain passes...it become compressed and warms. (*See lower right map*) Lower relative humidity also occurs helping to dry out vegetation and can fan any existing fires.

3. Wind speed increases as it squeezes through the mountain and valley canyons. Wind gusts can vary from 45 to 100 mph depending on the strength of the Santa Ana event.

4. Strong winds create turbulence for area flights and can make interstate travel difficult as well as choppy seas for mariners.

**Cross Section over the Los Angeles and Ventura County Mountains to the Pacific Ocean**

Source: National Weather Service
Largest Wildfires in California

1. Thomas - Ventura
2. Cedar - San Diego Co.
3. Rim - Tuolumne
4. Zaca - Santa Barbara
5. **Matilija - Ventura**
6. Witch - San Diego
7. Klamath TC - Siskiyou
8. Marble Cone - Monterey
9. Laguna - San Diego
10. Basin - Monterey
11. Day - Ventura
Wildland Fire Metrics

2016
- 170 - Total Responses
- 6 - Over 10 Acres

2017
- 139 - Total Responses
- 4 - Over 10 Acres
Ventura County Operational Area

10 Cities
5 Law Enforcement Agencies
3 Ambulance Companies
Los Padres Forest
CAL-Fire SRA
State Parks
National Parks
Naval Air Station
Condor Refuge
2 Harbors
1 Deep Water Port
Ventura County Operational Area

Thomas Fire Footprint
Pre-Fire Season Activities
Fire Hazard Reduction Program

• Since 1928
• 100’ clearance from structures
• 16,000+ parcels
• 100% compliance
Pre-Season Coordination

Fire Training

Law Enforcement Training

Office of Emergency Services

Public Events
We knew the risks were HIGH...
Monday, December 4, 2017

First call comes in at 6:24 p.m.
Final Perimeter 281,893 Acres
Notification(s) Evacuations

- 64 VC-Alerts
  165,284 people
- 31 Evacuations
  90,000-People
18,000 Structures Threatened

1,343 Damaged or Destroyed
Damage Estimates

Public Infrastructure: $70 Million
Private: $1 - $2.5 Billion
Fallen Firefighter
Lost in the Line of Duty

CORY D. IVERSON

- 8-Year Veteran Firefighter
- CAL FIRE San Diego
- December 14, 2017
Montecito Mudslide
Looking forward

- Relationships matter
- Respond with more resources faster than ever
- Share information immediately, everywhere
- Improve alert messaging
- Enhance public/private partnerships