

California Firefighters Keep Watch on Threatened Homes as Wildfire Burns

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LOCKWOOD VALLEY, Calif. — Fire crews kept watch on homes as a wildfire moved slowly and steadily through heavy brush in rural Southern California Thursday. By mid-morning, there was low humidity, which threatened efforts to contain one of the largest and longest-burning wildfires in state history. But the winds were moderate, with no return of the hot, gusting Santa Anas that have driven the flames during the past two weekend.

The fire was 43 percent contained after burning 159,281 acres, or nearly 249 square miles, of wilderness in Los Padres National Forest. More than 4,400 firefighters were working to corral the blaze about 70 miles north of Los Angeles.

On Wednesday, the flames crept within a half-mile of Lockwood Valley and other mountain communities. Firefighters spent the day clearing brush near houses and positioning equipment and hoses to fight the slow-moving flames. The blaze has destroyed two barns, three trailers, a cabin and five vehicles, but firefighters were able to save 40 homes, an animal refuge and a Boy Scout camp, Bechert said.

Residents of Lockwood Valley, Pine Mountain Club, Pinon Pines, Cuddy Valley, Camp Scheidek and Lake of the Woods were urged to evacuate, but many chose to stay. The community of Frazier Park was under a lower-level alert. The fire has burned since Labor Day and flared several times, sometimes covering thousands of acres in hours. It was started by someone burning debris. Firefighting costs have topped \$53 million. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has authorized the use of federal funds to cover some expenses.

1. In accordance to the passage above, in paragraph form, thoroughly explain the current weather conditions in Lockwood Valley and the impact it has upon the wildfire.
2. Assume for a moment that the Los Padres National Forest is shaped like a trapezoid, a quadrilateral and has only one pair of sides parallel. Create and solve an equation for area while simultaneously providing all of the appropriate dimensions.
3. Approximately how many acres are in the Los Padres National Forest? Provide an example of a familiar space or location comparable in size.
4. A square acre equates to about what percentage of a mile?
5. What physical damage are the wildfires responsible thus far?
6. Of the eight packages available, what factors might one consider prior to making a decision?
7. How many fewer miles than feet is Los Angeles located in correlation to the wildfires?
8. If each firefighter makes roughly \$18.84/hour, works a 24-hour shift, twice a week, over a duration of eight weeks, what percentage of the total firefighting costs is *not* utilized on payroll? How might attempt to justify or explain the extensive remaining costs?
9. In the passage above, in paragraph form, explain at least five ways using the red "Four-Step Reading" poster simplifies understanding of the material. Be specific.
10. Using contextual clues only, explain the meaning of the italicized words: *moderate*, *corral*, *refuge*, and *debris*.
11. Reflecting upon the seven previous editions received in Volume 1, what was your favorite edition of *The Daughtry Times*. Assuming it is humanly or even remotely possible since hundreds of students, literally, across the United States have grown to love and adore this material, what was your least favorite? Compare and contrast each of the questions above in paragraph form. You may utilize a Venn Diagram; however, it does not exclude you from writing a paragraph as well.
12. In paragraph form, explain five legitimate and educational purposes behind *The Daughtry Times*.

