

DOE CONNECT SERIES

Community Outreach, Neighbor Notifications,
Engagement, Collaboration & Training



TONIGHT'S COMMUNITY UPDATE

August 12, 2026

Meet our Special Guest from VCFD
Hear about DOE's cleanup progress at SSFL
Meet the team executing the mission

With You Today



Wendy Green Lowe
P2 Solution
Meeting Facilitator



Dr. Josh Mengers
DOE
Federal Project Director,
ETEC

Special Guest



Matt Falat
Ventura County
Fire Department
Division Chief



Focus of Today's CONNECT



Welcome



Special Guest: Ventura County Fire Department



Wildfires, Preparedness & Response



Recent Cleanup Activities



Q&A



Feedback & Resources



Meeting Guidelines

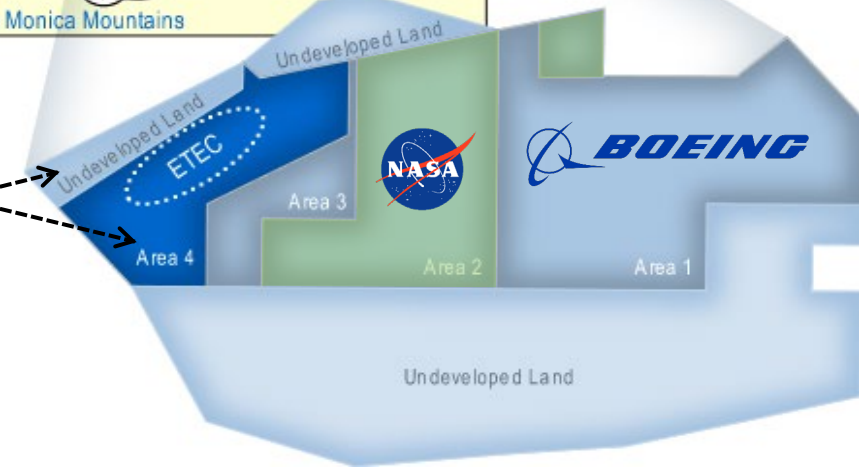
Appreciate a Diversity of Perspectives, Listen with Curiosity, and Treat Others With Kindness & Respect



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Overview: Santa Susana Field Lab (SSFL)

- **DTSC** is the lead regulator
- **Boeing** owns the majority of SSFL
- **NASA** owns the remainder of SSFL
- **DOE** leased a portion of Area IV to conduct research – not a landowner
 - Groundwater – 2007 Consent Order
 - Soil remediation – 2010 Administrative Order on Consent (AOC)
 - Buildings remove remaining DOE-owned below-grade structures



Ventura County Fire Department & SSFL Protection

Matt Falat

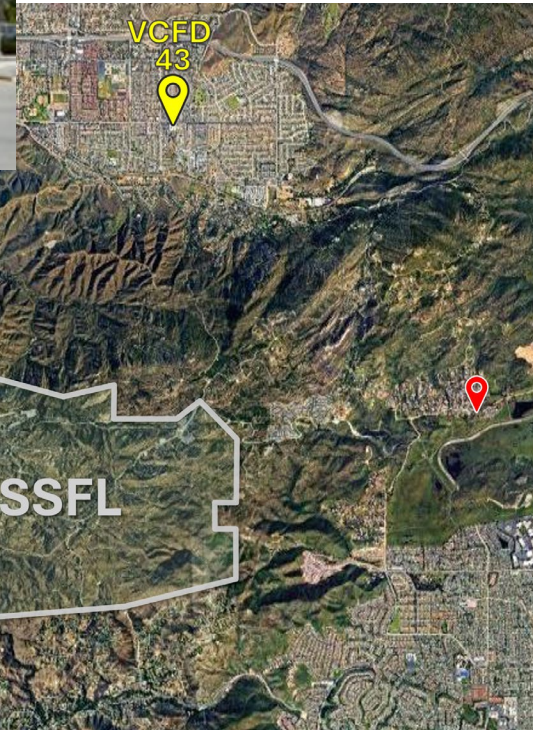
Division Chief, Ventura County Fire Department



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VCFD's Standard Response For SSFL

- Fire Station 43 first-in district
- Multiple sites for a copter landing zone
- Structure fires receive auto aid response from LAFD and LACOFD
- Brush fires receive a first alarm from all three agencies due to SSFL being in the Mutual Threat Zone
- Ventura County Department Protection Area, so command responsibility will be held by VCFD



Legacy Documents / Tactical Tools For SSFL

- Legacy Tactical picture used by responders
- Infrastructure and buildings have changed but reference for potential exposures have not



Tacticals (cont.)

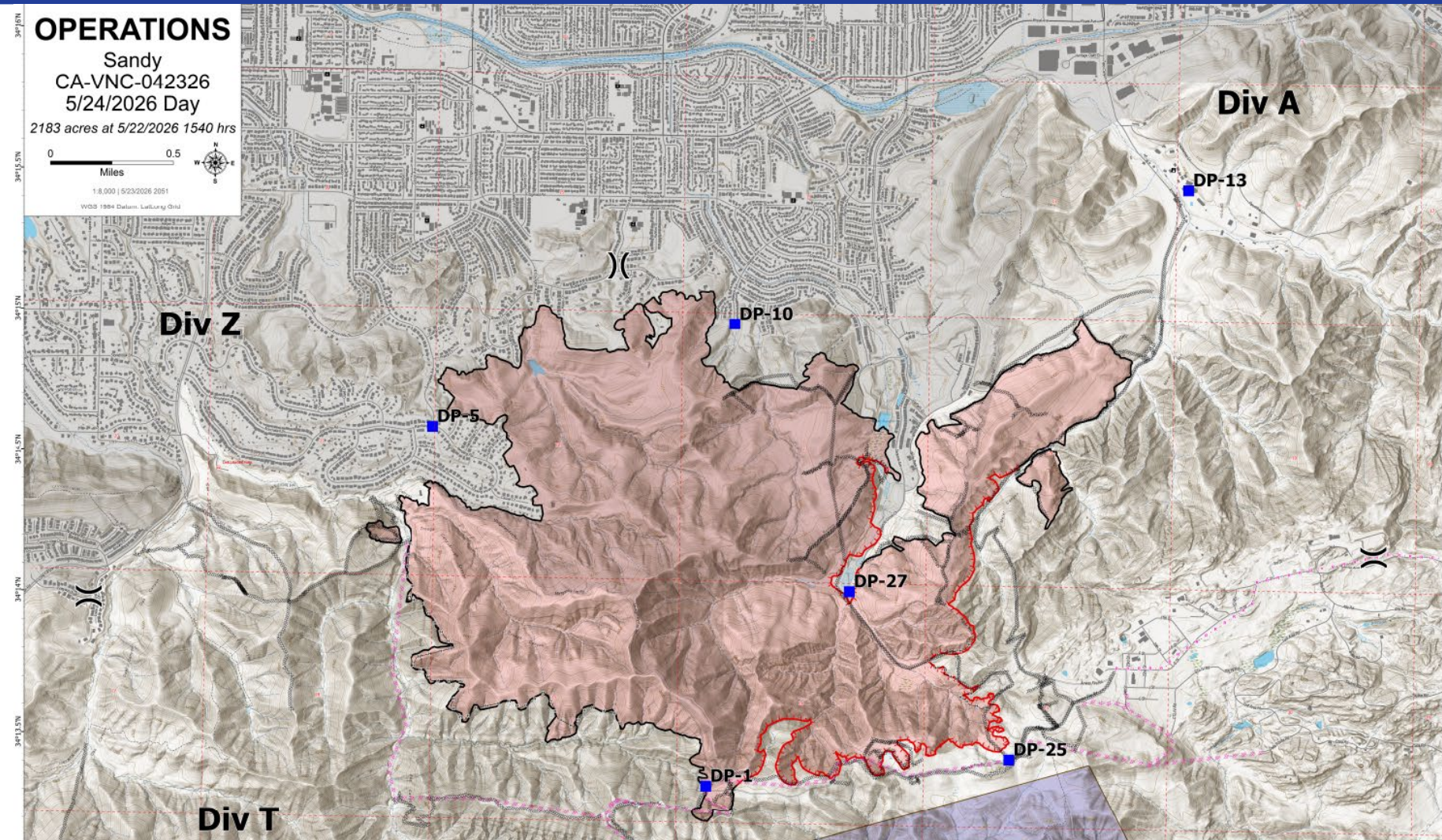


- Physical aerial maps used by responders onsite with written firefighter updates
- A physical map ensures quick information and plans for inconsistencies in cell or GPS service



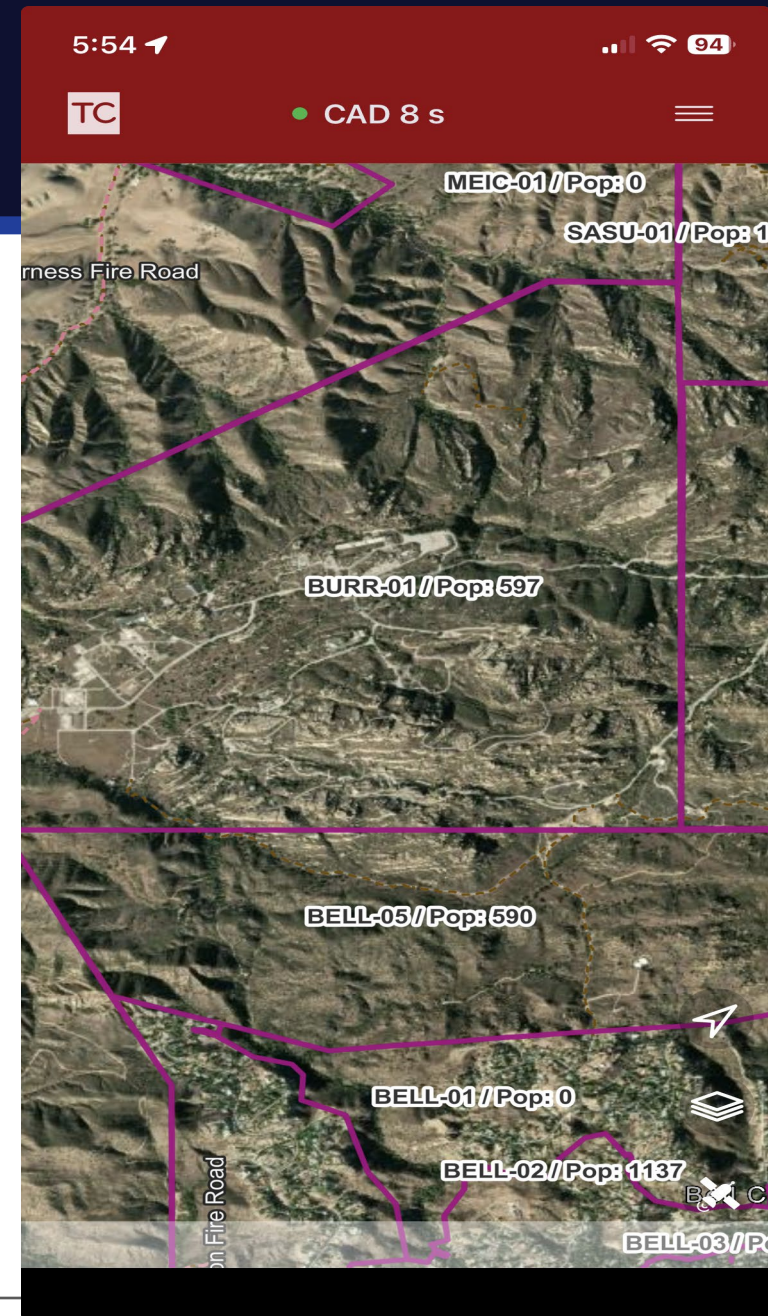
Sandy Fire Response

- Sandy Fire footprint
- Held at Runkel Canyon Fire Road
- Crews protected SSFL and Bell Canyon proper as a contingency
- Access road on south end of SSFL utilized

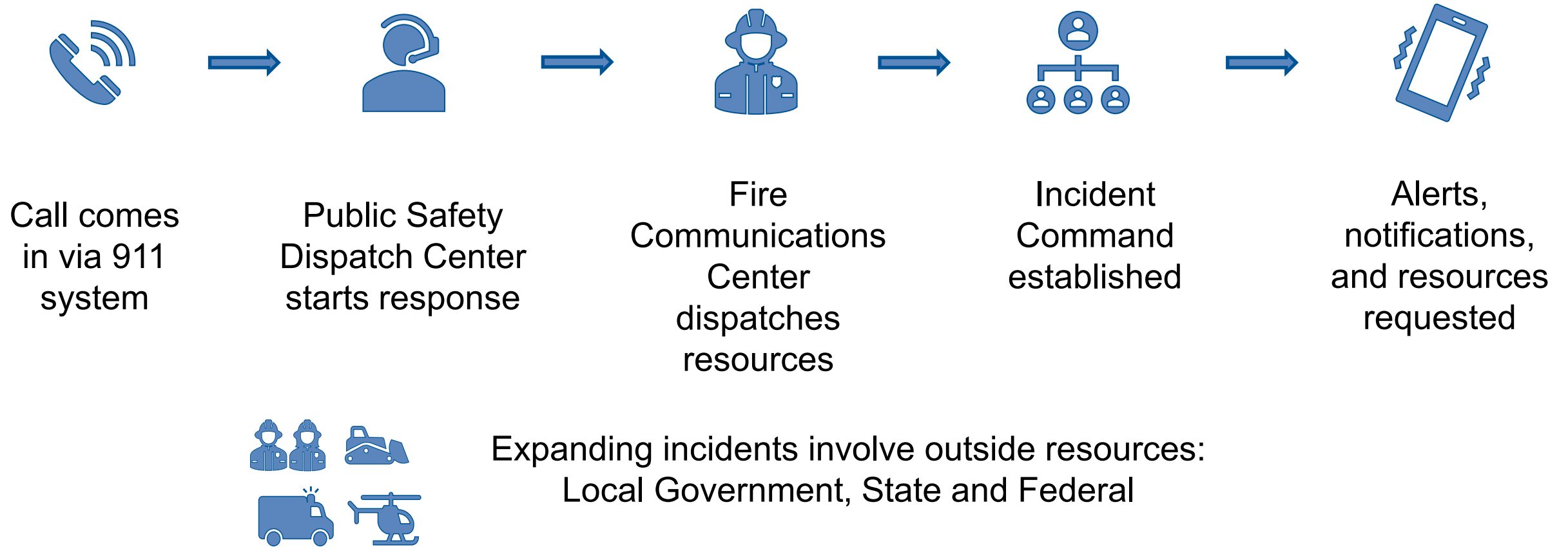


Coordination & Partnership: Incident Command

- Jurisdiction and Department Protection Area
- Size
- Rate of Spread
- Potential (ex. 50 acres in the next hour)
- Threats (ex. infrastructure, lives, property)
- Control Objectives (the box)
- Special Concerns / Hazards
- Types of Evacuations: Warning, Shelter in Place, Mandatory



911 Call to Incident Command



After the Incident

- VCFD works with the site to assist with:
 - Hazard mitigation
 - Incident investigation
 - Repair work
 - Repopulation



Q&A With Chief Falat

Process

- Raise your hand
- Questions are taken in the order asked

Reminder

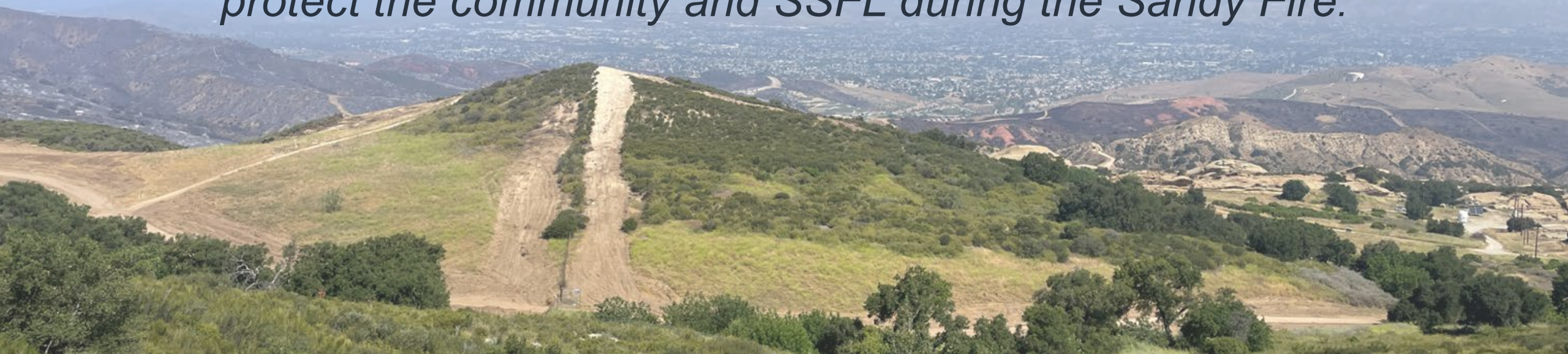
This is an informal opportunity for SSFL-related questions. Questions and responses will not be posted.



HONORING Ventura County Fire Department



With deep appreciation, DOE would like to thank VCFD for their rapid response, skill, and dedicated efforts to protect the community and SSFL during the Sandy Fire.



ETEC Discussion: Wildfires, Preparedness & Response

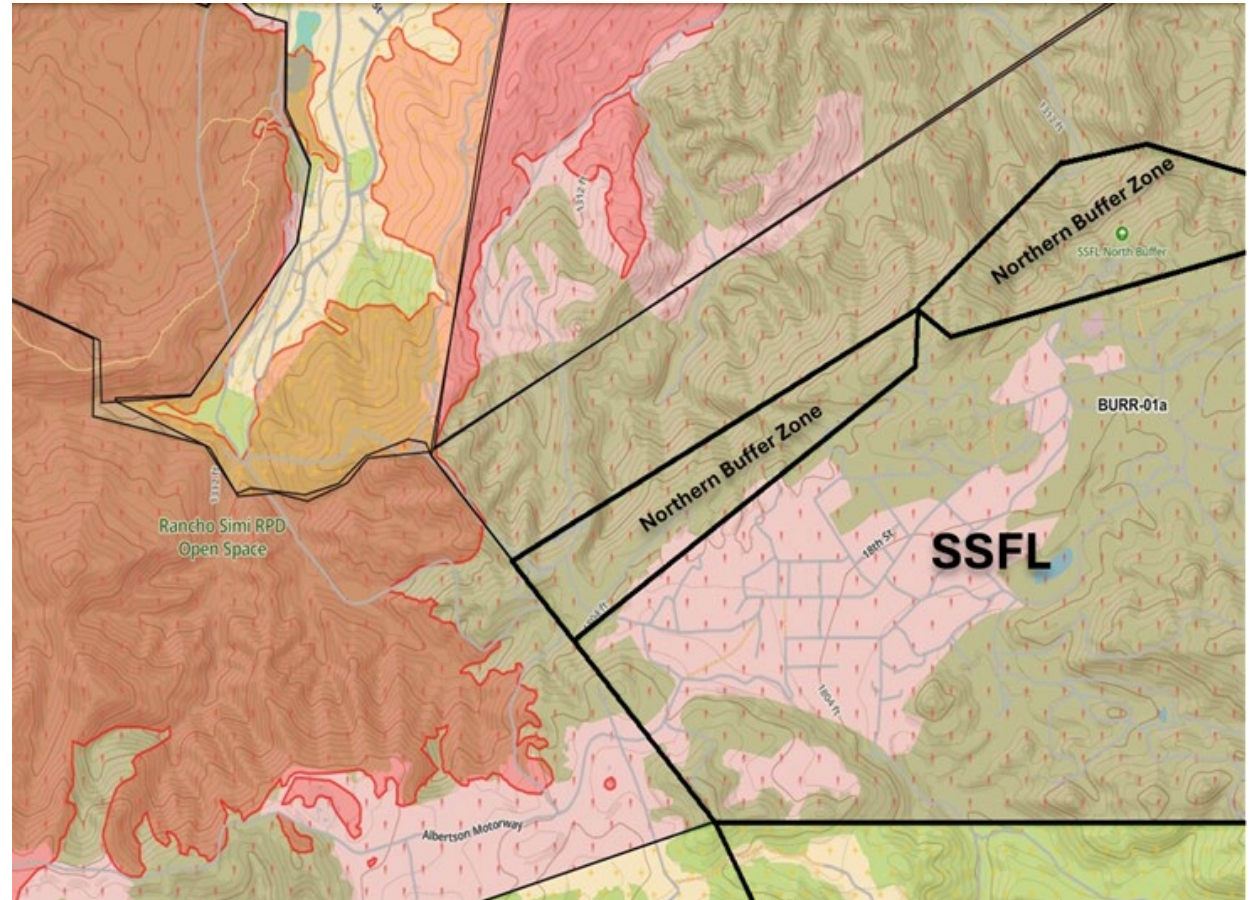
Dr. Josh Mengers
DOE Federal Project Director, ETEC



Sandy Fire

- **Started:** May 18, 2026
- **Contained:** May 27, 2026
- 2,183 acres burned

Burned near SSFL but did not cross onto the site

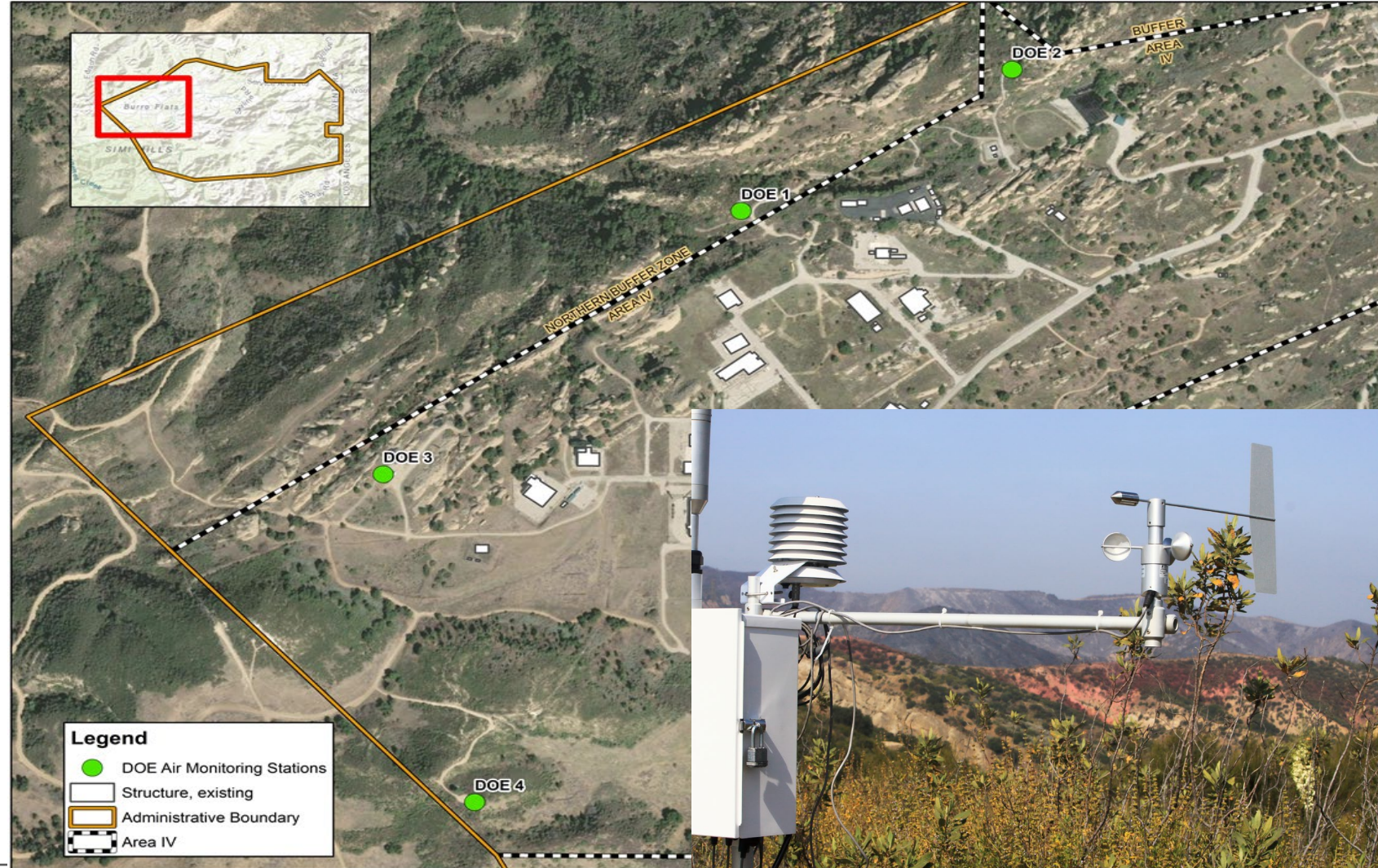


Sandy Fire Photos



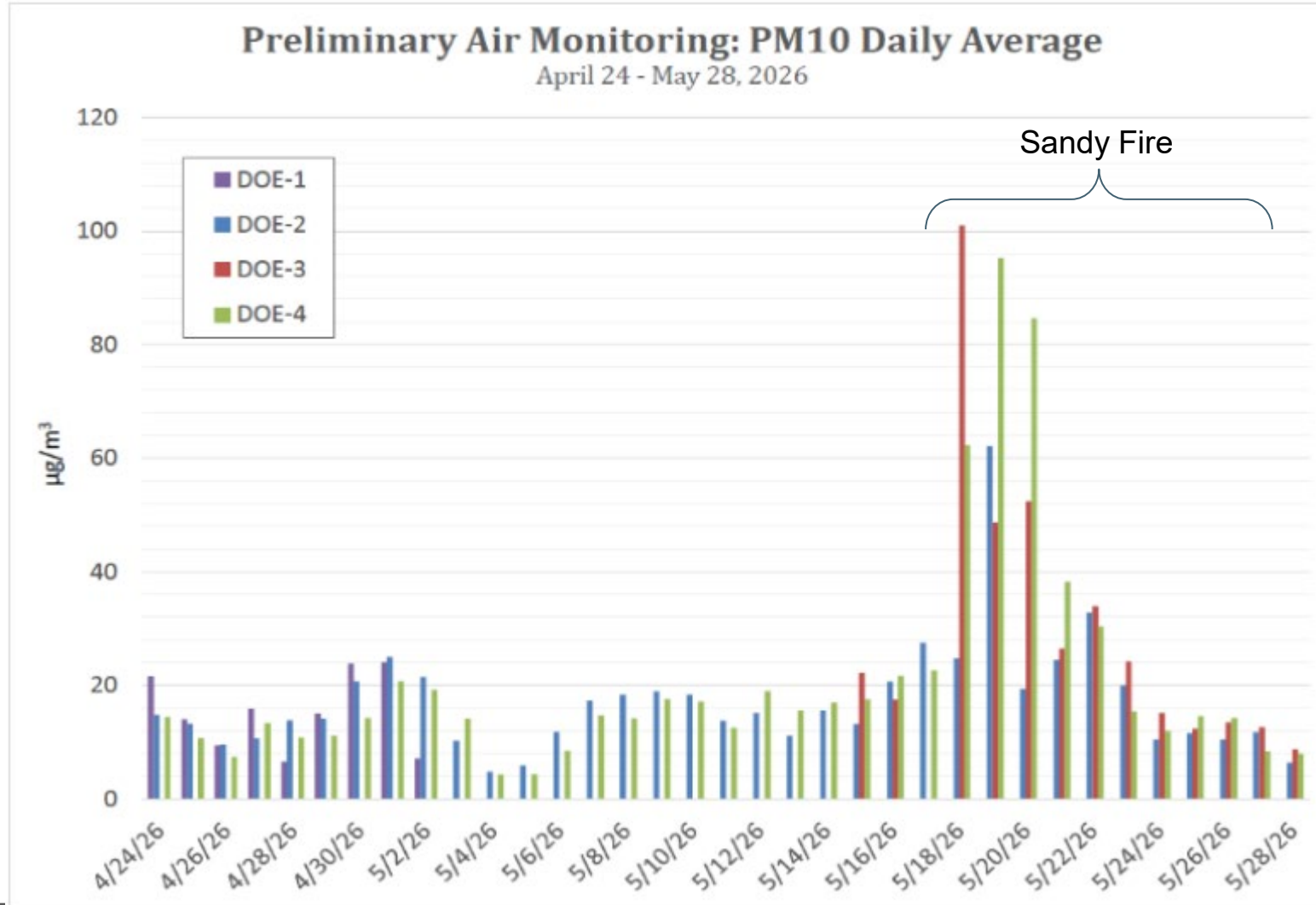
Air Monitoring & Wildfires

- DOE conducted perimeter air monitoring since 2018
- Monitoring data reported quarterly:
 - PM10
 - VOC
 - Radionuclides
- Monitoring continues during wildfires



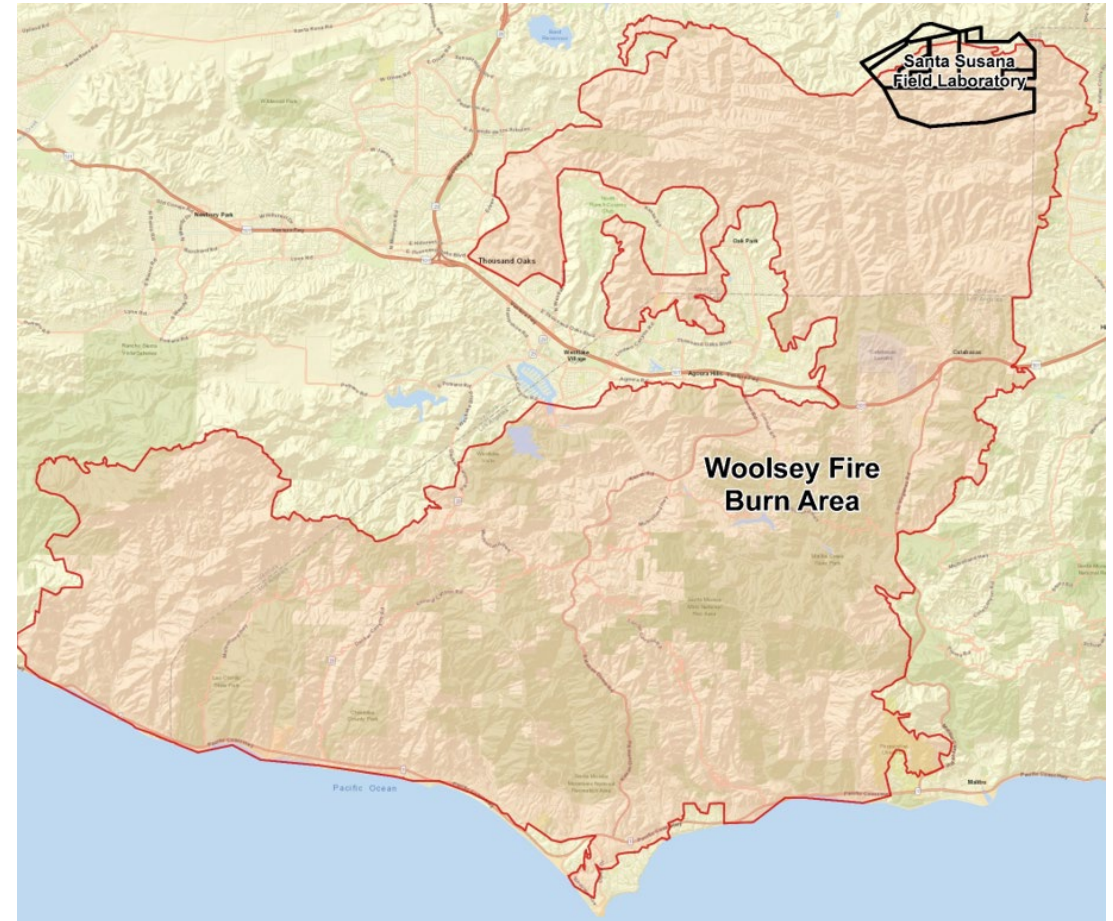
Sandy Fire: DOE's Preliminary Air Monitoring Data

- Preliminary air monitoring data shows typical PM10 increase from local wildfire smoke
- Analysis ongoing – Full data to be published in Q2 2026 Report
- Radiological Assistance Program (RAP) team determination: **"no radiological danger to the public"**



Woolsey Fire

- **Started:** November 8, 2018
- **Contained:** November 21, 2018
- 96,949 acres burned, including **80% of SSFL**



Woolsey Fire: SSFL

- In Area IV, only south of the main access road burned
- Most of the former operational areas, including RMHF, were not impacted
- Fire did not burn areas with radionuclide contamination

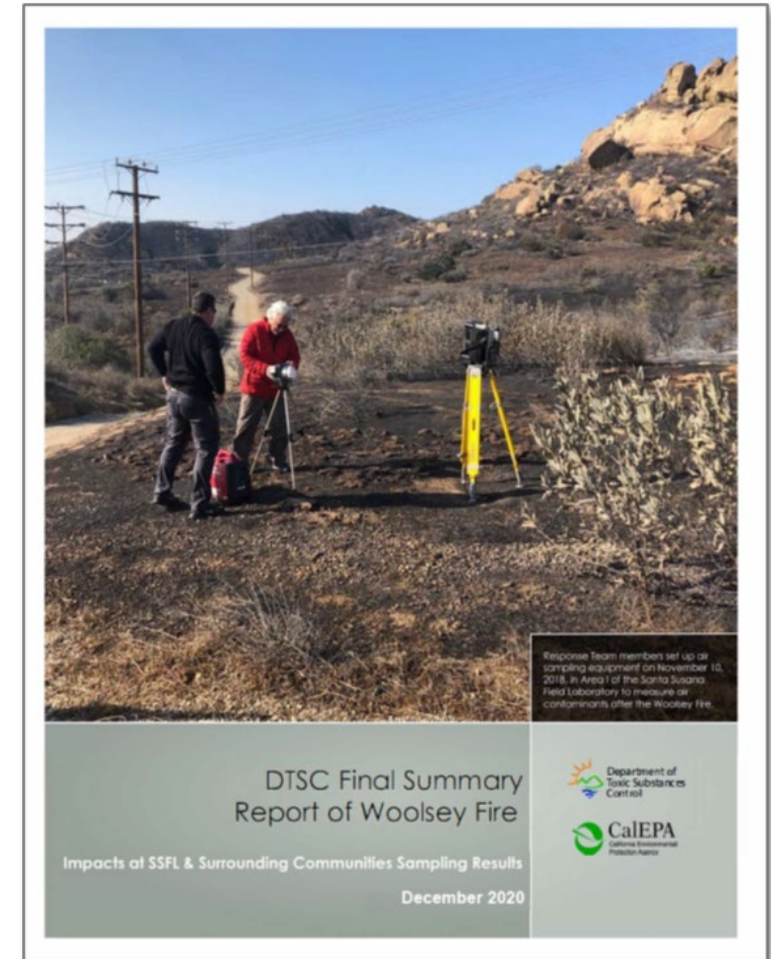


Woolsey Fire: Final Summary Report

DTSC led a multi-agency response team to gather data and evaluate whether the fire caused releases of SSFL contaminants:

- Conducted extensive, real-time measurements and collected physical samples of air, ash, and soil on and off site
- Published final report in December 2020
- Found that the risk from exposure to smoke during the Woolsey Fire was not higher than what is normally associated with wildfire

“Data from multiple lines of evidence did not identify a release of contaminants from SSFL.”



Woolsey Fire: Third Party Studies

- A 2021 study detected thorium particles off-site (*Kaltofen et al.*)
 - Unfortunately, the methods used were not able to distinguish between natural or industrial sources
 - Found a “significant majority of samples” (97%) matched background (*not contaminated*)
- A 2023 paper concluded “no evidence of SSFL impact in off-site soils” (*Rood et al.*)
 - Used more robust methodology to investigate the potential origin of particles
 - Selected as Health Physics Society's 2023 Michael T. Ryan Outstanding Paper of the Year for "scientific merit, accuracy, [and] balance”



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Lessons Learned: Sandy Fire & Woolsey Fire

- Sandy Fire did not burn on SSFL, while Woolsey Fire burned 80% of the site
- Data analyzed to date supports conclusion that neither fire released site-related contamination
- DOE is updating practices based on lessons learned: Updating vegetation clearance around air monitoring stations



Wildfire Preparedness & Response

Daily Activities

- Manage vegetation growth
- Inspect, test and keep fire extinguishers in vehicles and on equipment
- Have a water source for activities involving abrasive cutting, metal powered equipment or hot work



In the event of an evacuation

- Provide facility and site-specific info as requested to incident commander
- Account for and communicate with personnel and visitors to meet at designated emergency assembly/evacuation areas



Cleanup Status

- ✓ **Much of the remediation at SSFL is complete**
 - Sodium Reactor Experiment
 - Former Sodium Disposal Facility
 - Above ground buildings and facilities demolished
- ✓ **Contamination is characterized with ongoing interim remediation**
- ✓ **Ongoing environmental monitoring**
 - **NOW:** Finalizing building demolition and groundwater cleanup plans with DTSC.



Current Activities (May-July)



Groundwater Treatment Pilot

- Completed injections to test innovative cleanup technologies in April
- Analyzing performance monitoring samples to evaluate treatment effectiveness



Basement 4024 Demolition

- June: Addressed comments, revised plans, and resubmitted all major demolition plans/procedures to DTSC for review



Supporting Studies

- Agronomic sampling underway to prepare for future site revegetation
- Analyzing data and compiling report on laboratory capabilities and backfill study

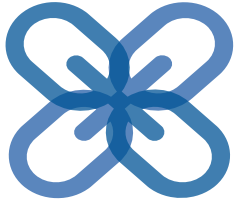


Sampling and Monitoring

- Interim groundwater measure: Removed 8,100 gallons from May to July; 94,000 gallons total since 2017
- Analyzing and compiling Q2 air monitoring report, including data from the Sandy Fire timeframe



Thank You For Joining Us



**Watch for CONNECT
Opportunities**



**Share Feedback &
Ideas for Future Topics**



**Learn About DOE's
Cleanup at SSFL**



Q&A

Process

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