



NEWS RELEASE

Date: Friday, July 11, 2008

District: 05 – Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Traffic Advisory-UPDATE #6

HIGHWAY 1 CLOSED DUE TO FIRE; SECTION THROUGH BIG SUR WILL OPEN TONIGHT

MONTEREY COUNTY - **As of tonight, July 11, 2008 at 6pm**, Highway 1 will reopen from the north through Big Sur but remain closed to traffic south of Big Sur for a **17-mile section** due to the Basin Complex Fire. From the south, the highway will be closed at Lucia, 23.5 miles south of Big Sur. From the north, the highway will be closed at Coast Gallery, (just south of Grimes Canyon) about 6.5 miles south of Big Sur.

As of Sunday, July 13 at 8 am, Highway 1 will fully open, provided there are no other fire incidents.

The highway has been closed since Saturday afternoon, June 21. It began with a 12-mile closure and expanded to a 39-mile closure as the Basin Complex Fire progressed. The fire is currently 41% contained, yet still actively burning in the forest, away from the highway. It is expected to be fully contained by July 30.

Alternate routes through Sunday, July 13 are Hwy. 101 to Hwy. 68 west to Hwy. 1 south in Monterey County or Hwy. 101 to Hwy. 46 west to Hwy. 1 north in San Luis Obispo County. Electronic message signs have been posted to advise motorists.

Most businesses will be open.

Caltrans reminds motorists to 'Slow for the Cone Zone.'

For more info on the fire, visit www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres or <http://www.fire.ca.gov/>. For info on road conditions in Monterey Co. and throughout the state, call 800-GAS-ROAD.

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