



9,500 ACRES BURNED OVER IN CALIFORNIA BRUSH FIRES

23 Homes Destroyed, Loss Heavy

Fire officials pinned hopes for stamping out the blazes on behaviour of the hot desert winds that have reached gusts up to 100 miles an hour since the fire started about 5.30 a.m. Monday. Sparks from power lines downed by the howling winds were blamed for starting several small fires which quickly joined and raced over the brush-covered slopes.

Officials called the blaze the worst in the area since the Bel Air - Brentwood disaster destroyed 484 homes and caused an estimated \$25 million damage in 1961.

About 800 men and 175 pieces of firefighting equipment battled the blazes but crews reported they could do little except try to save homes along the perimeter.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Two of three major brush fires were checked this morning as winds subsided and 1,200 firemen fought on against the multimillion-dollar holocausts north of Los Angeles.

County Fire Chief Keith Klingner and Glendale Fire Chief Norman Stolley said the Verdugo Hills fire has burned over 7,000 acres and the San Rafael Hills blaze 2,500 acres.

They emphasized that neither was contained or controlled however, and dangerous hot spots still burn fiercely.

If weather conditions hold, they said, the fires should be contained by late afternoon.

They said the third major fire — in the Newhall area — had been stopped but that it posed the worst hazard of the three.

The winds were down to around 35 miles an hour early today, with a Weather Bureau forecast of a further drop.

Fire officials said that will permit use of planes dumping fire-retardant borate solution on the hot spots north of Los Angeles. Planes could not be used Monday when the winds gusted as high as 100 m.p.h.

The multimillion-dollar fires lashed through expensive suburban residential areas bordering Glendale, Burbank, Pasadena and Newhall.

The fires scorched at least 10,000 acres in all.

Fire officials, rechecking the damage, said at least 23 homes were destroyed, and seven badly damaged.

No deaths were reported. Several firemen were injured fighting the blaze in the rugged canyons and ridges.

Thousands of homes were evacuated in areas near the two major blazes adjoining Burbank and Glendale, about 12 miles north of downtown Los Angeles.

Oil fields were endangered by the other fire, near Newhall.



IN FLIGHT FROM RACING FLAMES—Mrs. Chester Jones and her son are forced from their home in the Los Angeles suburb of Glendale as flames from one of several out-of-control brush fires swept down the hillside toward the house. The fire flamed on past without destroying the home. (AP wirephoto)