

Las Conchas Wildfire

Jim Eakins

Controller

April 19, 2012

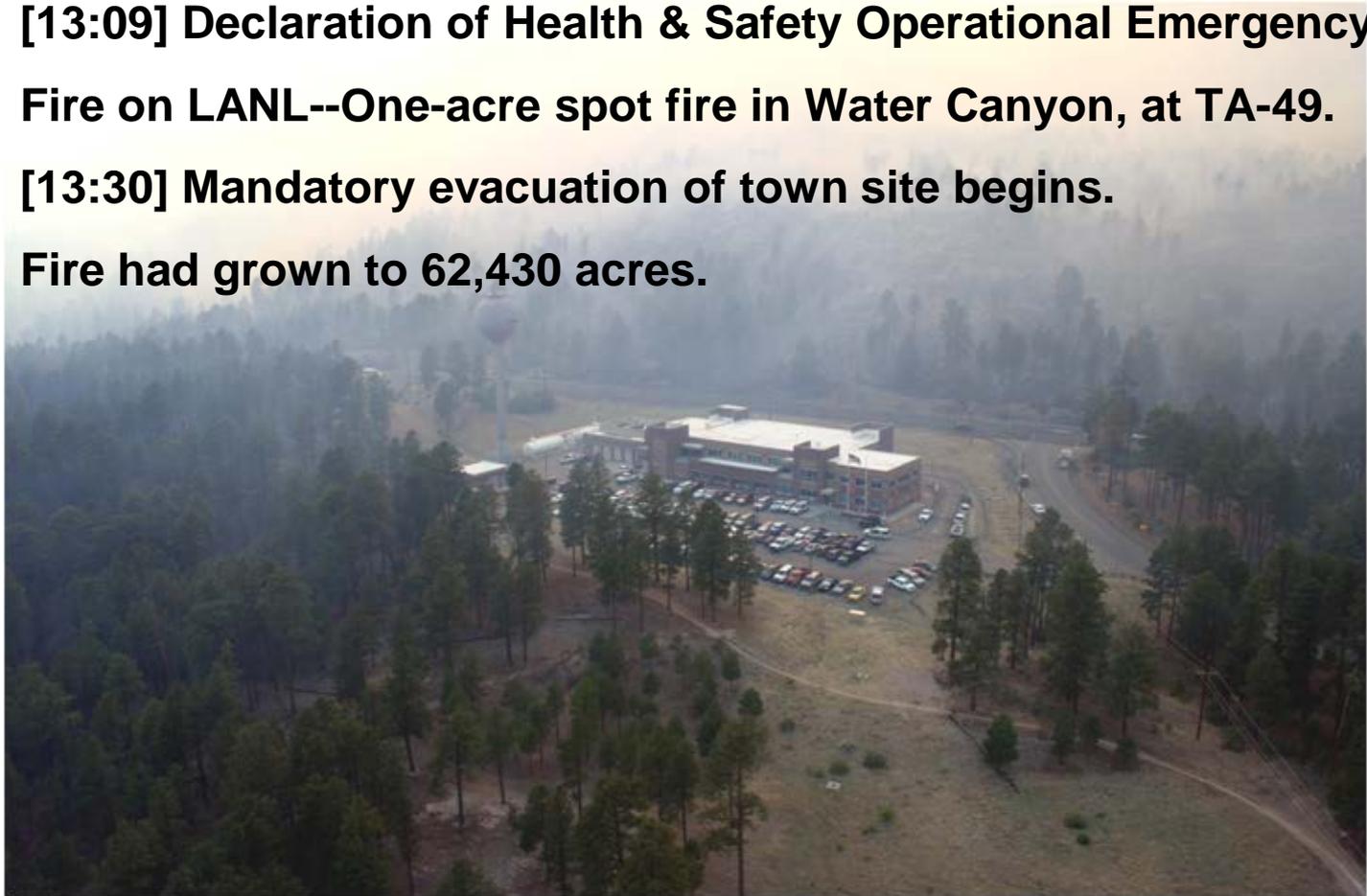
Sunday, June 26th, 2011

- [13:00] Las Conchas fire started south of Cox Ranch
- [15:41] EOC is activated. Non-emergency significant event declared. Wildland fire affected areas southwest of LANL.
- [18:15] Decision made to close Lab on 6/27/11. Laboratory facilities/areas placed in safe configuration.
- [20:00] Voluntary evacuation for Los Alamos town site.
- Fire grew to 43,782 acres.

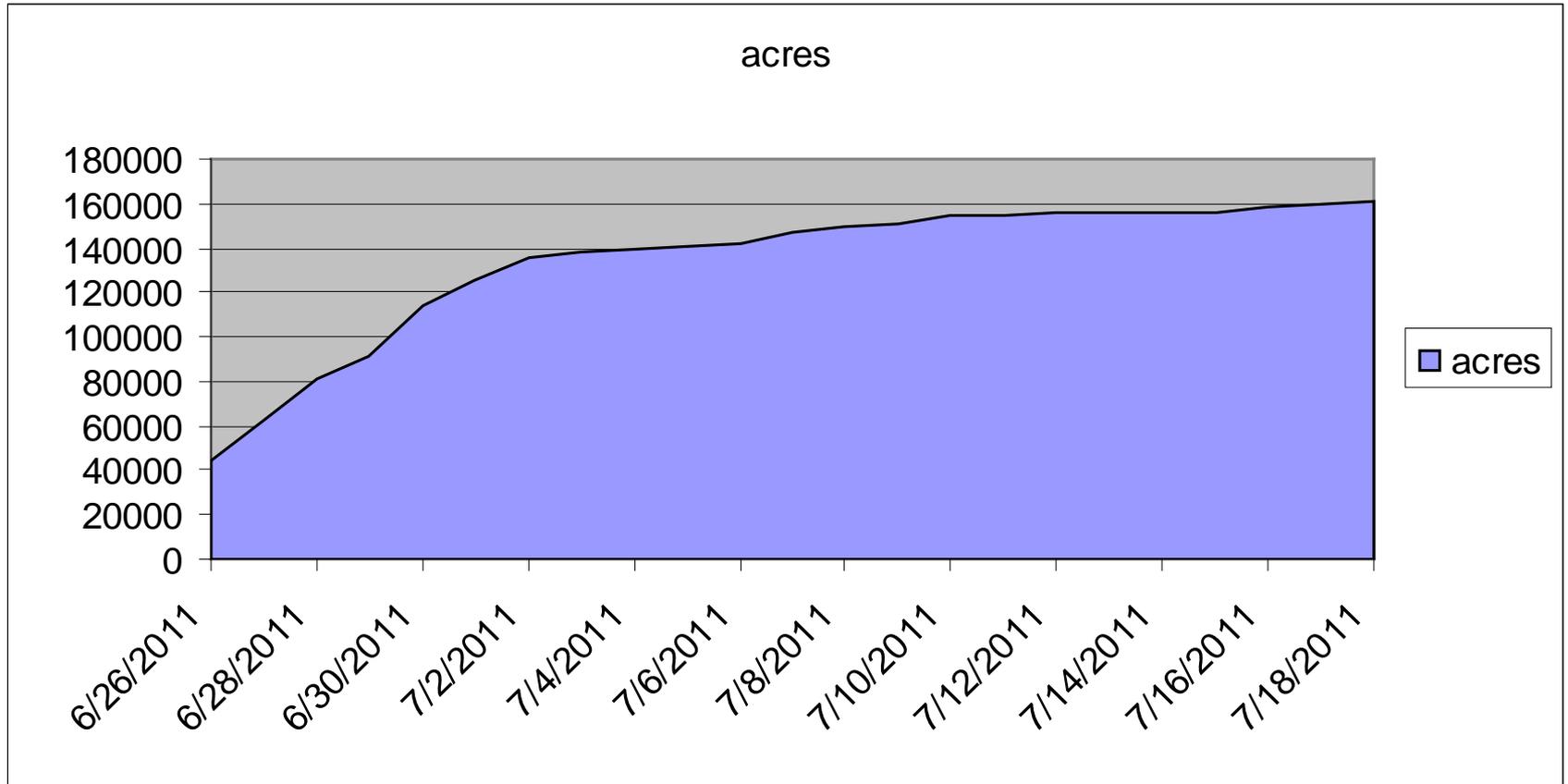


Monday, June 27th, 2011

- [13:09] Declaration of Health & Safety Operational Emergency.
Fire on LANL--One-acre spot fire in Water Canyon, at TA-49.
- [13:30] Mandatory evacuation of town site begins.
- Fire had grown to 62,430 acres.



Fire Progression-Daily Growth



Wildland Fire History

- 1954 Water Canyon Fire – ~ 6000 acres
- 1977 La Mesa Fire – 15,444 acres
- 1995 Dome Fire – 16,516 acres
- 1997 Lummis Fire – 1,500 acres
- 1998 Oso Fire - 5,185 acres
- 2000 Cerro Grande Fire – 45,000 acres
- 2002 Lakes Fire - 3,900 acres
- 2008 Ancho Canyon Fire – 17 acres
- 2009 San Miguel Fire - 1,635 acres
- 2010 South Fork Lake Fire - 17,100 acres
- 2011 Valle Canyon Fire – 95 acres
- 2011 Las Conchas Fire - ~160,000 acres



Dome fire exploded on April 26, 1996, starting from an improperly extinguished campfire and continued until 16,516 acres in Capulin Canyon and the Dome Wilderness were burned.

Lessons Learned from Cerro Grande Wildfire

- **Emergency Operations Center was built in 2003 for ~\$20,000,000**
- **Established a site-wide Wildland Fire Management Program**
- **Enhanced fire prevention and response capabilities**
 - Fire tenders and response equipment (~\$25,000,000 on new LAFD equipment)
 - Portable water sources
 - Seasonal Air Support at TA-49
 - Established Wildland training qualifications for Emergency Management and other key LANL personnel
 - Developed an advanced Wildland training simulation program at the EOC
 - Purchased fuel reduction/mitigation equipment
 - Alternate EOC
 - Mobile Command Unit and equipment

Las Conchas Lessons Learned-Positive aspects

- **Clearing and thinning activities after Cerro Grande fire reduced fuel load.**
- **Pre-planning performed by Interagency Wildfire Management Team proved useful.**
- **Teamwork was essential – LAC, LAPD, LAFD, FS/PS.**
- **Portable high-volume air sampling stations allowed data to be obtained more rapidly.**
- **Formally chartered recovery team, approved recovery plan, approved checklists for facility pre-entry requirements, facility re-entry pre-job briefs, and facility walk downs aided the transition to recovery.**

Las Conchas Lessons Learned- Areas of improvement

- **On-call lists, emergency contact information, organizational phone trees.**
- **Pre-established emergency communications website and media distribution lists.**
- **Communication with employees who do not have access to LANL intranet.**
- **Situation-specific access control to the LANL site and the EOC.**

CFO Support During Las Conchas Fire

- **Ran non-manual payroll for 10, 127 people from off-site by remote access to systems – paid ~9,850 via ACH and the remainder by cashiers checks (written by our bank and distributed at a local high school on payday)**
- **Ran craft payroll for roughly 800 people from off-site – paid ~600 via ACH and the rest by cashiers checks**
- **Ran vendor payments from off-site and paid most by ACH and the rest by mailing cashiers checks**
- **Closed the books for June month-end from off-site and submitted STARS file via remote access with no errors or overruns**