



[Home](#) [Phone](#)



[News Center](#)

[Contacts](#)

[L](#)

[Videos](#)

News Center

NEWS, RELEASES, VIDEO, PUBLICATIONS

NEWS RELEASE

All: News » News Releases »

Fire updates from the Emergency Operations Center

Los Alamos National Laboratory to Re-Open Wednesday

Los Alamos, New Mexico, July 3, 2011, 7:19am—Los Alamos National Laboratory has announced it will re-open to employees on Wednesday, July 6, 2011, after being closed for more than a week during the Las Conchas fire, the largest wildfire in New Mexico history. Laboratory Director Charles McMillan today issued a memo to Laboratory employees outlining the re-opening plan. “Los Alamos National Laboratory appears to have escaped serious damage from the Las Conchas fire,” McMillan said in the memo. “We are grateful for the tremendous efforts of emergency responders that helped spare the Lab and the town of Los Alamos. I wish to extend my deepest thanks to everyone who has helped so far, including all Lab employees who have patiently persevered during this emergency. However, as we begin preparations to re-open the Laboratory, we must remain cognizant of the fact that many members of our workforce may still be affected by this emergency while the Las Conchas fire continues to threaten other communities in the region.” The Laboratory’s post-fire-danger recovery plan was carefully coordinated with Los Alamos County to ensure that the community of Los Alamos is fully habitable before the Laboratory opening. McMillan stated on Saturday that he expected it to take two full days before employees could be fully integrated back into their workplaces after the community was re-opened to evacuees. Prior to employees reporting to work on Wednesday, Laboratory facility personnel are checking all of the more than 2,000 buildings located across the Laboratory’s 36-square-mile campus to ensure that all employee workplaces are safe for occupancy. On Tuesday, a team of Laboratory managers will assess work areas and begin to prioritize issues that will facilitate an efficient return to normal operations. Only after the safety assessments and prioritizations have occurred will employees be allowed back to work. Director McMillan urged employees to adopt an attitude of flexibility and tolerance when they return to work because not every facility is expected to be fully functional during the first several days of the re-opening period. In addition, because not every member of the workforce will be able to return to work immediately because of possible issues related to the Las Conchas fire or other personal concerns, employees should be supportive and understanding of the needs of their colleagues, McMillan added. Employees who need additional time before reporting to work should speak to their managers once the Laboratory has re-opened on Wednesday. McMillan was emphatic that employees should not return to work before Wednesday unless specifically instructed to do so by managers. The orderly, phased approach to re-opening outlined in the Laboratory’s recovery plan will ensure that every Laboratory work area is safe and secure. Early arrival by employees could disrupt or delay re-opening. Employees can get more information about the recovery memo and other concerns on the News closure page (<http://www.lanl.gov/news/closureqa.html>), or by calling the Update Hotline at 505-667-6622.

Squirrel Sparks Transformer Blowout, Small Fire Doused on LANL Property

Los Alamos, New Mexico, July 2, 2011, 1:30pm—A squirrel touched contacts in an electrical substation’s transformer today at Los Alamos National Laboratory’s Technical Area 53, the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center (LANSCE) Facility substation. The transformer sparked a small fire on the LANSCE property, approximately one acre, and Los Alamos Fire Department staff extinguished it within a short period. The Laboratory Emergency Operations Center has been activated as a precautionary measure. Power is being diverted from other sources to the LANSCE facility to maintain vacuum pump integrity, although the LANSCE electron beam has

Fast Facts

been powered down since Monday due to the larger fire shutdown recovery operations at LANL from the Las Conchas fire are continuing.

LANL Downgrades from “Emergency” to “Recovery” Mode

Los Alamos, New Mexico, July 1, 2011, 7:30pm—Los Alamos National Laboratory today declared an end to its state of emergency and moved into operational recovery mode. The change in status allows resources previously assigned to the Lab to be relocated to assist ongoing firefighting efforts in the region, said LANL Director Charlie McMillan. The welcome news came six days after the start of what became New Mexico’s largest wildfire—the Las Conchas Fire. The fire, which by Friday had burned more than 104,000 acres in Northern New Mexico, spared the Laboratory and all structures in Los Alamos County. During the entire time that the fire raged, only one small spot fire burned on Lab property, at Technical Area 49 on Monday, June 27. It was extinguished within an hour. At no time were nuclear or hazardous materials in harm’s way, thanks to immediate and effective action taken by fire and emergency crews, apart from safeguards in place before the conflagration, at no time were nuclear or hazardous materials in harm’s way. Though the recovery phase has now started, no date has yet been given when the Laboratory will reopen. Laboratory personnel will be clearly informed when they are to return to work by e-mail notification, a posting on www.lanl.gov, and the Lab’s information update line: 505-667-6622 or toll-free 877-723-4101. NOTE: Recovery personnel working at LANL while the Laboratory is closed should use only Pajarito Road. Though the fire has moved further away from the Lab, it continues to burn. LANL officials will aid state and federal agencies in efforts to contain the fire in other areas and help the communities as much they possibly can to fight together this common threat. NEW NUMBER-- Journalists should call 505-667-7000 to get in touch with media relations staff and monitor www.nmfireinfo.com for official fire updates.

LANL’s Fire Mitigation Efforts Going “Extremely Well”

Los Alamos, New Mexico, July 1, 2011, 4:00pm—There are no fires—including back burns—burning on Los Alamos National Laboratory Director property, and fire mitigation efforts are progressing “extremely well,” Los Alamos Fire Department staff reported. In a briefing this afternoon at the Emergency Operations Center at Los Alamos, Justin Grider of LAFD expressed his satisfaction with ongoing fire mitigation efforts, which are being conducted to ensure that the Lab remains safe and secure. “The situation for the Lab and Los Alamos County looks really good,” he said, adding that he had flown over parts of the Las Conchas Fire earlier today. In particular, Grider reported that • fire crews are continuing to thin and remove fuel loads in Rendija and Guaje canyons. In addition, crews are widening the trail system there to create fire breaks • burnoff operations are continuing in Los Alamos Canyon above the reservoir. Those operations, which are going “really well,” should be completed today • crews are also conducting preventive thinning operations in finger canyons radiating out from Los Alamos Canyon, such as ones near Los Alamos Medical Center and nearby Lab property • in the Quemazon and Ponderosa Estates areas, crews are making a protective dozer line, as well as fire lines—areas cleared of vegetation—made with hand tools. Grider added that though there is still some fire activity on Pajarito Mountain, the Ski Lodge is intact. Evacuated LANL employees and others interested in viewing up-to-date images of their homes, the Laboratory, and surrounding areas are encouraged to go to www.lasconchas.lanl.gov and follow the directions. The data they will see were obtained through a collaboration between LANL and Transparent Sky LLC. The equipment used for this collection is based on the Angel Fire system developed by LANL in conjunction with the Air Force Research Laboratory for the U.S. Department of Defense.

LANL Director Meets with Congressional Delegation, Briefs Media

Los Alamos, New Mexico, July 1, 2011, 2:00pm—During today’s noontime press conference in

are no fires burning on Laboratory property and that LANL's nuclear and hazardous materials are safe, protected, and accounted for. He also lauded the excellent collaboration between various agencies, and attributed the fast response to the Las Conchas Fire to lessons learned from and improvements made as a result of the 2001 Cerro Grande Fire. McMillan highlighted improvements LANL had made since 2000, such as • creating the Emergency Operations Center • improving fire protection systems across the Laboratory • undertaking massive fuel thinning projects on Lab projects • improving fire breaks and roads • and ensuring that Los Alamos Fire Department received new vehicles, equipment, and training. Those improvements, he said, "were key to the outcome we've seen so far." Prior to the press conference, McMillan accompanied New Mexico senators Jeff Bingaman and Tom Udall, NM Congressman Ben Ray Luján, and Thomas D'Agostino, National Nuclear Security Administration Administrator, Los Alamos County Councilors Sharon Stover, Geoff Rodgers, and Ron Selvage, and House District 43 Representative Jim Hall on a tour of the burn area. The visitors also received briefings from LANL Emergency Operations Division Leader Tony Stanford, Los Alamos Fire Department Chief Doug Tucker, Los Alamos Police Department Chief Wayne Torpy, Council Chair Stover, Jason Lott of Bandelier National Monument, and others.

Laboratory-Developed Military Technology Put to Use for Las Conchas Fire Evacuees

Los Alamos, New Mexico, July 1, 2011, 12:00pm—Los Alamos National Laboratory and a New Mexico aerial technology firm on Thursday deployed a cutting-edge surveillance system normally used to help U.S. conventional military forces in combat for a peaceful purpose: helping Las Conchas fire evacuees see an up-to-date view of their homes. A higher resolution version of the system, known as Angel Fire, was developed by LANL and the Air Force Research Laboratory for the Department of Defense. It's described as a surveillance camera for a city-sized area, complete with instant replay and the ability to zoom in to see, for example, someone planting an improvised explosive device. But over Los Alamos, the system is providing snapshots in time viewable over a Web site. "This is like Google Earth, except it's a Google Earth image from today," said William Rees, LANL's principal associate director for Global Security. "Our evacuees can access the image and see their homes, or their favorite hiking areas, or the burned areas, on images just a few hours old." "This is yet another example of a technology developed for global security missions being used to help everyday people in a very real way," said LANL Director Charles McMillan. "When I learned we might be able to use it here, I said 'let's make it happen.'" The image will allow zooming no closer than a typical Google Earth picture, but will nonetheless provide a bird's-eye view of tens of square miles. Transparent Sky LLC, a small, New Mexico business, is donating the equipment and time for these flights. To access the images, users should go to <http://lasconchas.lanl.gov/> and follow the directions. Note: The imagery is for reference purposes only and should not be relied upon as an accurate or real-time representation of conditions. Smoke and cloud cover may obscure many areas. Updated imagery will be obtained when possible and added to this site.

LANL Director Visits Los Alamos Evacuees

Los Alamos, New Mexico, July 1, 2011, 10:30am—Los Alamos National Laboratory Director Charlie McMillan and LANL Executive Director Rich Marquez met Thursday with Los Alamos area residents sheltering in the Santa Clara Event Center in Española and the Cities of Gold Casino in Pojoaque. McMillan praised the attitude of evacuees who had been displaced by the Las Conchas Fire, saying their spirit was "just wonderful." The director asked evacuees how they were coping and whether they had adequate access to information about the situation, and listened to their concerns. He also expressed his desire to help them in any way possible.

One of the messages I heard loud and clear from evacuees was that many of them are isolated from information sources and they do not have a good understanding of what is happening at the Laboratory," McMillan said. "As a result, we are working with the Red Cross to make hard-copy versions of our press releases and fact sheets available at the shelters in Española and Pojoaque." After meeting with the evacuees, the director returned to Los Alamos to thank firefighters, emergency crews, and volunteers who were enjoying a steak dinner at the Hill Diner. The dinner was provided by the restaurant's owner, Denise Lane, who, with her team of volunteers, has served nearly 2,000 free meals since the fire started. McMillan lauded the fire and emergency crews, saying that every day, they put their lives on the line to battle what has now become New Mexico's largest fire. Thanking them for their sacrifice was important, he said.

LANL Director Expresses Concern for Communities Across the Region

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 30, 2011, 3:10pm—Los Alamos National Laboratory Director Charlie McMillan expressed his personal concern for people across the region who have lost their homes due to the Las Conchas fire. "I have heard that, regrettably, several Lab employees have lost their homes in the Jemez and Cochiti areas – some have lost everything," said McMillan at a noon news conference. "I want to express my personal concern for them and their families, and for anyone who might be in the path of the fire, whether that be in Cochiti, the Jemez mountains, Santa Clara and San Ildefonso Pueblos and communities to the North. We are here to help in any way we can." The director also talked about continuing air quality monitoring and analysis activities, reporting that data continue to show nothing out of the ordinary. He noted that the Laboratory intends to post air quality data when it becomes available on the RACER database – an independent website that provides accessibility to LANL environmental monitoring data – though the exact timing of that posting is not certain. "We'll do it as fast as we can," he said. McMillan went on to describe ongoing planning for re-opening the Laboratory, saying that the timing and process would be closely coordinated with Los Alamos County officials. "We will not re-open until the Laboratory and our community are ready. We are hoping that will be soon, and so we're making recovery plans to get back to work sometime next week, with luck. For your safety it's important that employees do not attempt to move back into Los Alamos or to try to come back to work until there is official notification from the Lab and the County. First and foremost we have to make sure that all our facilities are habitable and safe for reentry."

LANL Director Visits Los Alamos Evacuees

Los Alamos, New Mexico, July 1, 2011, 10:30am—Los Alamos National Laboratory Director Charlie McMillan and LANL Executive Director Rich Marquez met Thursday with Los Alamos area residents sheltering in the Santa Claran Event Center in Española and the Cities of Gold Casino in Pojoaque. McMillan praised the attitude of evacuees who had been displaced by the Las Conchas Fire, saying their spirit was "just wonderful." The director asked evacuees how they were coping and whether they had adequate access to information about the situation, and listened to their concerns. He also expressed his desire to help them in any way possible. "One of the messages I heard loud and clear from evacuees was that many of them are isolated from information sources and they do not have a good understanding of what is happening at the Laboratory," McMillan said. "As a result, we are working with the Red Cross to make hard-copy versions of our press releases and fact sheets available at the shelters in Española and Pojoaque." After meeting with the evacuees, the director returned to Los Alamos to thank firefighters, emergency crews, and volunteers who were enjoying a steak dinner at the Hill Diner. The dinner was provided by the restaurant's owner, Denise Lane, who, with her team of volunteers, has served nearly 2,000 free meals since the fire started. McMillan lauded the fire and emergency crews, saying that every day, they put their lives on

... sacrifice was important, he said.

Fire Mitigation Efforts Ongoing at Laboratory

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 30, 2011, 5:00am—Though no fires are burning on Los Alamos National Laboratory property, numerous personnel are actively engaged in fire mitigation projects throughout the Laboratory's 36 square miles. Crews are in the process of thinning fuels and improving existing fire roads at five locations on Laboratory property. One project is specifically dedicated to reducing potential fuel sources in the vicinity of Area G, the Laboratory's Radioactive Waste Storage and Disposal Facility. As part of that project, crews are using industrial-sized mowers and large-vegetation mulching machines known as "Masticators" to reduce grasses, shrubs and small trees along Pajarito Road. Crews are also conditioning fire roads in the vicinity and spraying water to moisten potential ignition sources. Crews are engaged in similar activities along West Jemez Road, at an access area close to N.M. 4 just southwest of the community of White Rock, along a power line corridor located between the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center and the Laboratory's Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility, and around the Laboratory's explosive materials firing site northwest of the entrance to Bandelier National Monument. "These activities will help further protect the Laboratory from wildfire," said Laboratory Director Charlie McMillan. "We are extremely appreciative of the continuing efforts of firefighting crews and Laboratory employees who are diligently protecting the nation's premier national security science facility. These efforts will help us continue our national security mission." No wild fires are currently burning on Lab property. All of the Laboratory's nuclear and hazardous materials, including its waste and environmental remediation sites, are safe, accounted for, and protected. In earlier news, LANL announced Wednesday that it would remain closed through Friday, July 1.

Los Alamos Fire Chief: Preventive Burns Were Successful

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 29, 2011, 8:05pm—Los Alamos County Fire Chief Doug Tucker said Wednesday that preventive burns just outside the western boundary of Los Alamos National Laboratory have been successful. "In my professional opinion, there is a less than 10% chance of spot fires on Lab property this evening, diminishing tomorrow," Tucker said during a briefing to emergency managers. Firefighters began setting "back burns" on the west side of New Mexico State Route 501 around mid-morning. Those operations were declared complete by evening. The burns were intended to remove available fuel from the Las Conchas Fire, which has consumed more than 60,000 acres on two sides of the 37-square-mile LANL site but only one acre of the Lab itself. "What I witnessed today was an incredibly professional job by men and women who are risking their lives to save our community and this Laboratory," said LANL Director Charles McMillan. "I could feel the heat of the fire on my face as I watched from the roof of our Emergency Operations Center." The Laboratory has posted video of the preventive burn to a new YouTube page at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETd8OCXVvkM>. No wild fires are currently burning on Lab property. All of the Laboratory's nuclear and hazardous materials, including its waste and environmental remediation sites, are safe, accounted for, and protected. Earlier Wednesday, LANL announced it would remain closed through Friday, July 1.

MEDIA ADVISORY: LANL Announces New Hours of Operation for Joint Information Center in Santa Fe

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 29, 2011, 6:00pm—Los Alamos National Laboratory announced that beginning today, staff at the Joint Information Center will respond to inquiries regarding the Las Conchas Fire from the general public and the media from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. MDT daily. The JIC is located at the Regional Development Corporation, 2209 Miguel Chavez Rd., in Santa Fe. Media should call 505-820-1226 for updates and monitor

LANL Announces Closure for Friday, July 1

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 29, 2011, 5:20pm—Los Alamos National Laboratory this afternoon announced it will remain closed through Friday, July 1 because of risks presented by the Las Conchas Fire and the mandatory evacuation of Los Alamos town site. Laboratory facilities will be closed for all activities and nonessential employees are directed to remain off site. Personnel are considered nonessential unless they have received specific instructions from their supervisors to report to the Laboratory.

**No Wildfire on Laboratory Property: Active Air Monitoring Underway
First High-Volume Air Samples Come in 'Clean'**

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 29, 2011, 12:40pm—Despite no wildfire currently on Los Alamos Laboratory property, the Laboratory has established a network of seven high-volume air samplers along the southern, northern and eastern boundaries of Laboratory property to verify that hazardous materials are not leaving the Laboratory in smoke from the fire. Preliminary results of air samples taken at Los Alamos National Laboratory boundaries show no radioactive materials from Laboratory operations or legacy waste in smoke from the Las Conchas fire. “There are no wildfires burning on Lab property and our nuclear and hazardous materials are accounted for and protected,” said Laboratory Director Charles McMillan. “As scientists we need data to ensure that our employees and regional neighbors are not affected by our operations. Preliminary air sampling results confirm this.” The high-volume air sample filters are being split with one half of each filter being analyzed on site for a quick turnaround of results and the other half being sent to an offsite, independent laboratory for analysis and corroboration of the preliminary results. In addition to the high-volume samplers, the Laboratory has sixty AIRNET (<http://www.lanl.gov/environment/air/airnet/description.shtml>) sampling stations near Los Alamos, White Rock, on Laboratory property, and in the region. A subset of these stations is in place to ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency’s airborne dose limit for the public. The AIRNET samples will help verify the high-volume sampling results. The preliminary data shows no levels of radioactive materials in concentrations higher than that seen in smoke elsewhere in the region. Director McMillan on Tuesday pledged to make air-sampling data available to the public as soon as possible. Routine updates to the New Mexico Community Foundation’s RACER environmental monitoring website will reflect these data and other information at <http://racernm.com>. “New Mexicans should know that there are no radioactive materials from the Laboratory in the smoke,” McMillan said. “As with any smoke, however, we urge our employees and regional residents, particularly those with health conditions such as asthma, to minimize their exposure.”

Pre-Burns to Occur on LANL Western Boundary

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 29, 2011, 11:00am—Fire crews on Wednesday morning will begin a series of targeted, preventative burns along the western edge of Los Alamos National Laboratory in an effort to further remove available fuels from the Las Conchas Fire. Observers may notice increased smoke coming from the LANL border. At this time there is no wildfire on Laboratory property. Laboratory facilities will be closed for all activities and nonessential employees are directed to remain off site. Personnel are considered nonessential unless they have received specific instructions from their supervisors to report to the Laboratory.

FACT SHEET: Fire Safety Improvements at Los Alamos National Laboratory since the 2000 Cerro Grande Fire

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 28, 2011, 8:33pm—Los Alamos National Laboratory has implemented a multiyear fire safety improvement program since the 2000 Cerro Grande Fire.

Purchased more than 35 new fire trucks, service vehicles, and pieces of heavy equipment • Built a multimillion-dollar state-of-the-art emergency operations center (photo) • Conducted \$20 million worth of tree-thinning operations, clearing of ground fuels, and construction of fire breaks and roads across the Lab • Built a new interagency fire center with a helicopter base and water dip tanks • Enacted interagency agreements and training with the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Los Alamos County, and the state of New Mexico. • Improved storm water runoff and erosion controls, planted more than 10,000 willows, and built structures to help prevent contaminants from flowing down canyons “The Lab and our interagency partners have applied the lessons learned from Cerro Grande,” said NNSA Los Alamos Site Office Manager Kevin Smith. “The improvements between then and now are substantial and they are making a difference in this fire.”

LANL Announces Closure for Thursday, June 30

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 28, 2011, 7:00pm—Los Alamos National Laboratory tonight announced it will remain closed through Thursday, June 30 because of risks presented by the Las Conchas Fire and the mandatory evacuation of Los Alamos town site. Laboratory facilities will be closed for all activities and nonessential employees are directed to remain off site. Personnel are considered nonessential unless they have received specific instructions from their supervisors to report to the Laboratory. Employees should check local news sources, Los Alamos County Emergency Radio on AM 1610, the LANL Update Hotline (505-667-6622) and the LANL web page (www.lanl.gov) for updates.

Paychecks on time for LANL employees, crafts

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 28, 2011, 5:10pm—Paychecks for LANL employees, including crafts, will be deposited as usual for those with direct deposit. Employees who usually receive paper checks can pick up their checks at Pojoaque High School on Thursday (June 30) from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Employees must pick up their checks in person and present valid identification.

LANL Director: "Strong Team Protecting a National Treasure"

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 28, 2011, 3:53pm—Los Alamos National Laboratory Director Charles McMillan today thanked emergency responders fighting the Las Conchas wildfire and again assured the region that the Laboratory’s nuclear facilities and hazardous material sites are safe and protected. “Wildland fire risks are a key part of our safety analyses.” McMillan said during a joint news conference in downtown Los Alamos. “There are fire mitigations at all of our nuclear facilities, and I am confident in our ability to protect all of them. This is a strong team protecting a national treasure.” Latest LANL developments: • Los Alamos Fire Chief Doug Tucker said the fire has burned up to New Mexico State Route 4, the LANL boundary on its southwest side, and is burning in the Jemez Mountains on the western border. “When you ask how close it is to the border, it’s a road away,” Tucker said. • To date, the only Lab property burned is about an acre of Lab property in a remote, southwest area of LANL known as Technical Area 49. That spot fire was extinguished Monday afternoon. • LANL monitoring teams have detected no releases of radiological or other contaminants. • The Lab has announced it will remain closed on Wednesday, June 29. The Laboratory has posted a number of pictures to its Flickr photo site, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/losalamosnatlab/>.

Joint News Conference Scheduled for Noon MDT in Los Alamos

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 28, 2011, 8:20am—Los Alamos National Laboratory will participate in a joint news conference with Los Alamos County public safety officials at noon MDT today, June 28, at the news media staging area located at 20th and Trinity Drive. Latest LANL developments: • No fires burned on Lab property overnight • The Lab announced it will remain closed on Wednesday, June 29. • All nuclear and hazardous materials, including those

at the Lab's principal waste storage and treatment areas, and accounted for and protected. LANL monitoring teams detected no releases of radiological or other contaminants. • Water tanks at the Lab's wild land fire helicopter landing pad are re-filled in preparation for today's firefighting activities. • LANL will support an aerial reconnaissance of the fire area during the morning. To date, the Las Conchas fire has entered Lab property at only one remote LANL technical area. Ground crews and air drops extinguished the one-acre spot fire at Technical Area 49 within hours on Monday afternoon. The LANL meteorology team is closely watching wind and weather conditions as the fire makes its way through the Jemez Mountains outside the Lab's western boundaries. The Laboratory has posted a number of pictures to its Flickr photo site, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/losalamosnatlab/>.

Laboratory Closure for Wednesday, June 29

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 28, 2011, 7:10am—Los Alamos National Laboratory emergency officials have announced that the Lab will remain closed on Wednesday, June 29, 2011 because of risks presented by the Las Conchas wildfire and the mandatory evacuation of the Los Alamos town site. Only employees on an essential-duties access list will be permitted back onto Laboratory property during the closure, as notified by their line management. All others are urged to remain off-site until facilities have been safely reopened. The Laboratory has posted a number of pictures to its Flickr photo site, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/losalamosnatlab/>.

Radiological Assistance Program Team Assisting at Lab Fire

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 27, 2011, 10:30pm—In order to augment existing radiological effects of the Las Conchas fire, Los Alamos National Laboratory will have teams from the National Nuclear Security Administration's Radiological Assistance Program available as early as Tuesday. RAP provides resources (trained personnel and equipment) to evaluate, assess, advise, isotopically identify, search for, and assist in the mitigation of actual or perceived nuclear or radiological hazards. RAP teams are comprised of volunteer NNSA federal and contractor personnel specifically trained to perform nuclear and radiological response activities. "The RAP teams' work will provide another level of assurance that the community is safe from potential radiological releases as the fire progresses," said Kevin Smith, Los Alamos Site Office manager. During the afternoon and over Monday night, Los Alamos Fire Department crews patrolled the Laboratory and nearby canyons and mesas, watching closely for new fires from the Las Conchas event. Earlier today, fire crews extinguished a small fire in TA-49, a remote area of the Laboratory, when the main fire, which had burned to the southern edge of New Mexico State Route 4 at the Lab's southwest boundary, crossed the road to the north. Thanks to aggressive thinning of fire fuels in recent years, the fire was successfully controlled with the efforts of ground and air crews. No other fires are currently burning on Lab property, no Lab facilities face immediate threat, and all nuclear and hazardous materials are accounted for and protected. Environmental sites are being monitored the Laboratory and DOE, and Lab air quality experts are coordinating with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Laboratory leaders continue to be grateful for the tremendous recent support from the surrounding communities in this response to the Las Conchas fire. The Lab will remain closed on Tuesday, June 28.

Lab Director Briefs New Mexico Governor, Congressional Delegation, Pueblo Representatives

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 27, 2011, 10:00pm—Los Alamos National Laboratory and National Nuclear Security Administration officials today briefed the New Mexico congressional delegation, New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez, and representatives from neighboring Pueblos on the status of the Las Conchas wildfire and its potential impacts on Lab property. LANL Director McMillan thanked emergency crews who quickly extinguished a spot fire this

fuels around the Laboratory, coupled with the reduction in fuels caused by historic fires in the area, are helping protect the Laboratory and townsite,” LANL Director Charles McMillan said in an afternoon conference call. “The Lab community is incredibly thankful for the regional, state, and federal resources coming to our aid.” The Governor said, after visiting Espanola’s Santa Claran Event Center, where some evacuees are sheltering, “I was amazed by their attitude; the spirit of the people there. They were so grateful.” She added that evacuees also appreciated how organized the evacuation had been. At the Lab’s Technical Area 49, the fire jumped across New Mexico State Route 4, but landed in an area that had been thinned of ground fuels in recent years. NNSA Site Office Manager Kevin Smith said, “Lessons learned from the Cerro Grande fire are being applied today,” and reiterated that Department of Energy senior leaders had pledged highest-level support and cooperation. Additionally, the Laboratory has called in teams to monitor its network of 60-plus AIRNET monitoring stations and has high-volume air samplers ready to deploy. “We’re doing this as a precaution,” McMillan said. “The health and safety of this community and our neighbors is our highest priority.” No Lab facilities face immediate threat and all radioactive and hazardous materials are accounted for and protected.

Firefighters Control Spot Fire on Lab Property

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 27, 2011, 4:45pm—Fire crews have contained a spot fire that started in a remote area of Los Alamos National Laboratory. Emergency officials say the Las Conchas fire, which had burned to the southern edge of New Mexico State Route 4 at the Lab’s southwest boundary, crossed the road to the north early this afternoon. Air crews dumped water at the site within the Lab’s Technical Area 49 and brought the blaze under control. The area had been thinned of ground fuels in recent years. About one acre burned and the Lab has detected no off-site releases of contamination. No other fires are currently burning on Lab property, no facilities face immediate threat, and all nuclear and hazardous materials are accounted for and protected. Environmental sites are being monitored and air quality experts are coordinating with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Las Conchas fire has burned an estimated 49,000 acres in forests, canyons, and mesas south and west of the Lab.

Las Conchas Fire Enters LANL Property; Lab Announces Closure for Tuesday, June 28

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 27, 2011, 2:20pm—Los Alamos National Laboratory emergency officials have announced that the Lab will remain closed on Tuesday, June 28, 2011 because of risks presented by the Las Conchas wild fire and the staged, mandatory evacuation of the Los Alamos town site. A one-acre spot fire was reported in Water Canyon, within Technical Area 49, on the Lab’s southwestern boundary. Reports from the field say the fire has jumped to the north across New Mexico State Route 4. More details will follow as soon as they are available. The Lab is supporting Los Alamos County as it conducts a staged, mandatory evacuation of the town site. Los Alamos County residents should tune to 1610-AM for updated information.

LANL Officials Will Join News Conference set for noon MT

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 27, 2011, 10:50am—Los Alamos National Laboratory and National Nuclear Security Administration officials will participate in a joint news conference currently scheduled for noon MDT at the Los Alamos County Airport, along New Mexico State Route 502 on the east side of Los Alamos. Los Alamos County public safety officials will present an update and current status of the fire.

Lab Cancels Public Meeting on New Facility

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 27, 2011, 8:30am—Los Alamos National Laboratory has

cancelled a public meeting scheduled for tonight in 2007. The public information meeting for a hazardous waste permit modification request on the Lab's new transuranic waste facility will be rescheduled at a later date.

Lab Officials Monitoring Winds, Fire Progress

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 27, 2011, 7:50am—Los Alamos National Laboratory emergency officials are closely watching wind directions this morning as the Las Conchas fire continues to burn southwest of the Lab. Winds generally from the northwest overnight have helped keep the fire from entering Lab property, but forecasts call for a change by mid-day. LANL's Emergency Operations Center remains operational. Observation aircraft are currently conducting aerial surveys to gauge the fire's growth and current size. Overnight, as a precaution, the Lab cut natural gas to technical areas in LANL's remote southwest area. All hazardous and radioactive materials remain accounted for and are appropriately protected, as are key Lab facilities such as its proton accelerator and supercomputing centers. Environmental specialists are mobilized and monitoring air quality, but say the principal concern is smoke. The Lab last night announced it would be closed Monday. "It's been a very long night for the fire crews," said Lab Director Charles McMillan. "There has been an outpouring of support from the region, the state, and the federal government and for that we are profoundly grateful."

Governor Martinez Visits Laboratory Emergency Ops Center

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 27, 2011, 12:10am—New Mexico Governor Susanna Martinez came to the Los Alamos National Laboratory Emergency Operations Center just before midnight, June 26. "Our top priority is the safety of the people of our communities and property. I'm grateful to the state and local crews who are working so hard to keep damage to a minimum," the governor said. Los Alamos County Councilor Sharon Stover also arrived, noting "We've got a good team here, with folks who were here for the Cerro Grande fire, so I feel very confident about their being able to manage this. In addition, we're getting a lot of support from neighboring communities." "We'd just like to thank the Governor and the leadership from surrounding areas who have been so quick to offer their support," said Laboratory Director Charles McMillan.

Lab Closely Monitoring Las Conchas Fire Progress

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 26, 2011, 10:40pm—Los Alamos National Laboratory emergency officials are closely monitoring progress of the Las Conchas fire as it burns toward the east. It was last reported less than one mile from the Lab's southwestern boundaries. A special task force was dispatched to Water Canyon to protect LANL facilities there and Lab heavy equipment is assisting Los Alamos County and federal fire crews. Environmental and weather monitoring personnel have been mobilized. LANL announced it would be closed Monday and ordered all but essential employees to remain off Lab property and keep roads clear for emergency crews or citizens trying to leave the area. Los Alamos County has encouraged residents with health concerns to consider leaving the area voluntarily because of thick smoke likely to settle in overnight. "I'm asking all our employees to stay clear of the Lab so the fire crews can do their jobs," said Lab director Charles McMillan. "And please keep those crews in your thoughts tonight." "We've been in contact with (NNSA Administrator) Tom D'Agostino as well as senior DOE officials," said NNSA Los Alamos Site Office Manager Kevin Smith. "They are ready to support the Laboratory and people of Los Alamos County with additional resources as needed."

Laboratory Assets and Property Protected; Joint Information Center Open In Santa Fe

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 26, 2011, 8:30pm—Los Alamos National Laboratory emergency crews have been dispatched to areas across the Laboratory to protect key facilities

...and materials from a rapidly advancing wildfire, include all hazardous and radioactive materials facilities as well as LANL's proton accelerator and supercomputing centers. The Las Conchas fire has not yet reached Lab property. Lab director Charles McMillan said LANL crews and heavy equipment are working to assist County and federal firefighting crews. "They have our complete cooperation. Our emergency response capabilities are fully mobilized," McMillan said.

All Los Alamos National Laboratory Sites Closed Monday

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 26, 2011, 8:00pm—On Monday, June 27, 2011 Los Alamos National Laboratory will be closed due to a nearby wildfire. All laboratory facilities will be closed for all activities and nonessential employees are directed to remain off site. Personnel are considered nonessential unless they have received specific instructions to report to the Laboratory. Employees should check local news sources, the LANL Update Hotline (505-667-6622) and the LANL web page (www.lanl.gov) for updates. All radioactive and hazardous material is appropriately accounted for and protected. LANL staff is coordinating the on-site response and supporting the county and federal fire response. The Laboratory's Emergency Operations Center has been activated. Media can reach a Joint Information Center at 2209 Miguel Chavez Road, Santa Fe. Phone 505-820-1226.

Forest Fire Near Los Alamos National Laboratory

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 26, 2011, 6:07pm—The Las Conchas fire burning in the Jemez Mountains approximately 12 miles southwest of the boundary of Los Alamos National Laboratory has not entered Laboratory property at this time. All radioactive material is appropriately accounted for and protected. LANL staff is coordinating the onsite response and supporting the county and federal fire response.

Forest Fire Near Los Alamos National Laboratory

Los Alamos, New Mexico, June 26, 2011, 6:00pm—On June 26, 2011 at 1 p.m. a fire began in the Jemez Mountains approximately 12 miles southwest of the boundary of Los Alamos National Laboratory. The Laboratory's Emergency Operations Center has been activated. Further information will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

[About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Library](#) | [Maps](#) | [Museum](#) | [Emergencies](#) | [Inside LANL](#) | [Inside PI](#)

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA © Copyright 2010-11 LANS, LLC All ri