

# Range fires more frequent, severe, study finds

By Marianne Napoles

Fires in and around the Chino Hills State Park are becoming larger and more frequent, according to a fire study produced by Hills for Everyone, the non-profit organization that created the State Park.

"Though fires are a natural part of the ecosystem, there is nothing natural about the size and frequency of the fires destroying our wildlands year after year," said Claire Schlotterbeck, executive director of Hills for Everyone. "Too many fires are burning too often in this area."

The report, called "A 100-year History of Wildfires Near Chino Hills State Park," tracked perimeters, points of origin, causes, and weather conditions for fires that burned in or around the park between 1914 and 2011.

The park sits at the juncture of four counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino. After more than 30 acquisitions since 1981, it encompasses 14,100 acres.

The two-year study showed that more than 100 fires occurred, most of them since 1977.

Although the organization spent two years poring over data from fire agencies including the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Orange County Fire Authority, the Chino Valley Independent

Fire District, newspaper archives, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation, not every fire was documented for study. Few data were produced about how range fires started because historic record-keeping wasn't as complete as it is now, Ms. Schlotterbeck said.

"Our data is incomplete because there are a lot more fires that we just don't know about," she said. "We're not going after a doctorate or seeking peer review, we just wanted to get a handle on what was happening."

## Freeway Complex

She said the Freeway Complex Fire in 2008 prompted the study when 187 homes were destroyed, 131 homes were damaged, 95 percent of the State Park was burned, and 30,000 acres were charred in four counties.

The data showed that areas that have burned repeatedly include the 91 Freeway corridor between Anaheim and Corona, Carbon Canyon in Brea, and the Rim Crest entrance to the park in Yorba Linda.

Ms. Schlotterbeck said Santa Ana winds come in from the east and blow west, increasing speed as they funnel down through tight canyons. The increased speed creates ember storms, blowing embers into attics and vents of homes.

The top three causes of range fires in the study area



Claire Schlotterbeck shows a map of the 100-year history of fires in the area of the Chino Hills State Park during the Wildfire Awareness Fair held in May.

Champion photo by Marianne Napoles

were arson, power lines, and automobiles.

Factors influencing the increased frequency of fires are roadways, the growing interface between range lands and urban lands and the proliferation of flammable non-native vegetation such as palm trees and arundo.

"If there are lessons to be learned, it seems that jurisdictions should revisit how their communities grow and where the most appropriate place for housing developments should be located," Ms. Schlotterbeck said.

An example of good planning is the Vista Del Verde project in Yorba Linda, where a golf course was built between the range and the houses, and cactus was planted to keep coyotes out

as well as provide habitat for the cactus wren, she said.

When cities increase the density of a housing development but do not increase the road capacity on arterials, evacuations during a firestorm are difficult and potentially disastrous, Ms. Schlotterbeck said.

Cities and homeowners associations must maintain defensible space and not allow it to become overgrown, she said.

California Parks and Recreation Environmental scientist Alissa Ing stated in the study that Chino Hills State Park is an example of a landscape that has been modified by fire, where the dominant coastal sage scrub and chaparral is changing to highly flammable non-native

annual grasses.

These grasses reproduce and go to seed immediately after a fire, as happened in the State Park after 95 percent of it burned, making it difficult for chaparral to come back.

## Recommendations

Among the expected recommendations such as increasing fire agency presence and patrols during high wind days, others include: "hardening" the edges of the 91 Freeway that abut natural lands with K-rails, incorporating a frequent maintenance program for power lines, requesting that Caltrans improve consistency on fuel clearance along Carbon Canyon Road and spray plants when they are small to make hand crew removal

easier and less expensive, and placing fire agencies that serve Chino Hills, Brea, and Yorba Linda at the bottom of the list for sending mutual aid to others areas on high fire hazard alert since they may have their own fires to tend.

Ms. Schlotterbeck said power lines are the second highest cause of fires. "There needs to be a regular maintenance of power lines and enforcement procedures in place," she said.

Hills for Everyone will take the study "on the road" and present it to city councils and agencies.

The study can be seen at the Hills for Everyone website: [HillsForEveryone.org](http://HillsForEveryone.org). Information on the data for this study: [FireStudy@HillsForEveryone.org](mailto:FireStudy@HillsForEveryone.org).

## Clip & Save COUPONS

To place your coupon here, or for help with your advertising, Call (909) 628-5501

### CHINO HILLS FOOT & BODY MASSAGE SPA

**SPECIAL \$20/HR**  
Full body massage & foot reflexology  
With this coupon. Regular \$25/Hr  
Must present coupon. Not valid w/any other offer.  
Expires: 9/7/12

**WEDNESDAY SPECIAL**  
Buy 1 Get 1 FREE  
With this coupon. Regular \$50.  
Now \$25 • Bring a friend for free.  
Must present coupon. Not valid w/any other offer.  
Expires: 9/7/12

2935 Chino Ave Suite E-4 Chino Hills, CA 91709  
**Tel: 909-628-9205**

Located: Chino Ave. & Peyton Dr. in 99 Ranch Market Plaza  
Hours 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM • We are open 7 days a week  
[www.chinohillsmassage.com](http://www.chinohillsmassage.com) • No Appointment Necessary • Walk in Welcome!

### Now Offering Air Brush Tanning

by appointment only

## HOTSPOT TANNING

TANNING...LOOK GOOD. FEEL GREAT!

4200 Chino Hills Pkwy., Ste 810, Chino Hills  
(909) 393-8305  
(Vons Center by 24 Hour Fitness) [www.hotspotchinohills.com](http://www.hotspotchinohills.com)

**Buy 1 Month Receive 1 Month 50% OFF**  
Expires: 9/7/12

**Combo Pack \$35**  
• 3 Basic Tans  
• 2 Level Two Tans  
• 1 Supreme Tan  
Expires: 9/7/12

### FINALLY! GOURMET PIZZA & PASTA DELIVERED!!

**OPEN 7 DAYS!**  
Delivery • Take-Out • Dining • Catering  
3210 Chino Ave., Suite A, Chino Hills  
(Harkins Theater next to Starbucks)  
**909-591-3131**  
[VILLAGGIOPIZZERIA.COM](http://VILLAGGIOPIZZERIA.COM)

**HAPPY FAMILY HOUR SPECIAL**  
**20% OFF ANY PIZZA**  
Mon-Thurs Only. 3pm-6pm. Delivery must be made between 3pm-6pm. All other cpts excluded. Excludes 99c signature line pizzas. Offer expires 9/7/12

**TAKE OUT OR DELIVERY**  
**\$2 OFF LARGE PIZZA**  
With Coupon only. One coupon per visit. Not valid with any other offer. Offer expires 9/7/12

Now Serving Beer & Wine!!

### CLIP & CUTS BARBER SHOP

- Flat Tops
- Razor Cuts
- Crew Cuts
- Style Cuts
- 4 TV's

2983 Chino Ave. Ste A-4  
Chino Hills • 99 Ranch Market  
**909-548-0800**

**Regular Hair Cut \$10.00**  
Mon-Thurs  
Expires: 9/7/12

Open 7 Days  
M-F 9-7 • Sat. 9-5  
Sun. 9-4pm

### GRAND OPENING

## PHO GRAND

VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT

13788 Roswell Ave. #176 • Chino  
(Golden Palms Plaza)  
**(909) 591-2522**

**20% OFF**  
Off Any Entree (drinks included)  
Expires: 8/31/12

Sun - Thurs: 10am - 9pm • Fri - Sat: 10am - 10pm

### ECONO LUBE N TUNE & BRAKES

Your Premiere Automotive Maintenance Center

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
Monday-Saturday 8am - 5pm • Sunday 8am - 4pm

**Oil Change \$18.98**  
includes filter, up to 5 quarts of oil (Synthetic extra)  
Most Cars. Expires 9/7/12

**Brakes Special \$74.95**  
Plus parts per axle  
With coupon. Most Cars. Expires 9/7/12

**Summer Special**  
A/C Service **\$29.95** +Freon  
Any Repair Extra  
Not valid with other offers. Expires 9/7/12

**We Do Smog Fail Repairs**  
**SMOG CHECK \$19.95** + CERTIFICATE  
Most Cars. \$15 extra for evap test. SUV, Luxury Cars, Vans & Trucks \$10 extra. Expires 9/7/12

**Complete Repair & Service**  
**909-393-6867**  
**14688 Pipeline Ave., Chino Hills**  
Behind Chino Hills Car Wash / Bravo Burgers  
Free pick up & Delivery when you schedule repair

### AA ORIENTAL SPA

★ Body & Foot Massage ★ Facials ★

Open 7 days a week 10 am - 9:30 pm

**\$14.99**  
Foot Massage

**\$39.99**  
Facial

**\$39.99**  
Body Massage

12564 Central Ave., #A, Chino  
(located in El Central Real Plaza, next to florist)  
**(909) 590-8862**

### 40% OFF Dry Cleaning

**ENVIRONMENTAL Sam's CLEANERS**

MON-FRI 7AM - 7PM • SAT 8AM - 5PM  
3626 GRAND AVE. STE E. CHINO HILLS  
NEXT TO HENRY'S MARKET (909) 628-1004

**PANTS SPECIAL \$2.20**  
Excludes, Lined, Silk or Fancy Pants  
1 2

**MEN'S DRESS SHIRTS 99¢**  
w/dry cleaning item  
1 2  
Ask for details  
Coupon not valid w/ any offer. One coupon per visit. Not valid on same day service Present Coupon at Drop Off. Valid thru 9/7/12

### TEST ONLY SMOG CHECK

Located at Chino Hills Parkway and La Palma Dr.  
(one block west of Central)

Pass or FREE Re-test on 1996 or Newer Vehicles Only

**\$29.75\*** Bring DMV Renewal Notice  
+ \$8.25 Certificate  
+ \$2.00 ETF  
+ Additional charges for 1976-1995 Autos for Evap testing.  
Must present coupon when work order is written  
8 am-5 pm Monday-Friday/8am-3pm Saturday

**Any Car, Minivan, SUV or Pickup**  
Automobile Registration Service Available  
EXPIRES: 9/7/12

Valid at both locations  
**EZ SMOG CHINO HILLS**  
**(909) 597-8984**

14935 LA PALMA DR.

### A STORAGE PLACE

EL PRADO OF CHINO AND MONTCLAIR LOCATION

- Safe & Secure
- Units Individually Alarmed
- Recorded TV Surveillance
- Computerized Gate Access
- Sizes 5x5, 5x10, 10x10, 10x15, 10x20, 10x25, 20x30
- Open 7 Days
- Climate Control
- RV Parking at Montclair Location

**1/2 OFF SALE ON ALL RENTAL UNITS**

CALL FOR DETAILS

**50% OFF**

**FREE LOCK WITH MOVE-IN**

**CALL FOR DETAILS**

(909) 606-1225 • (909) 464-1727

### DICKEY'S BARBECUE PIT

## WE CATER!

Any Event, Any Size!  
Delivery • Full Service • Box Lunches  
Parties • Functions • Events & More!

**Order Today!**  
**909.902.1320**

Or Take Home:

- Picnic Pack
- Family Pack
- XL Family Pack

**FREE ICE CREAM**  
with any purchase!  
No limit!

11971 Central Ave. Ste A  
Chino, CA 91710  
(In Albertsons Shopping Center)

**FREE DINNER**  
BBQ Meat Plate or Sandwich  
Buy ONE, get ONE of equal or lesser value FREE. With purchase of TWO Drinks

**\$5 COMBO**  
Includes:  
Pulled Pork Big Barbecue Sandwich, 1 Homestyle side & drink.

Limit 1 coupon per customer per visit. Not valid with other offers. Chino Location. Exp: 8/31/12

©2010 Dickey's Barbecue Restaurants, Inc.

**Let Dickey's Cater! Ask about our Specials!**