Southern California Apple Fire forces nearly 8,000 to evacuate



The fire, dubbed the Apple Fire by local firefighters - who routinely give blazes identifying names - was reported Friday, July 31, in Cherry Valley, a community about 75 miles east of Los Angeles and had destroyed at least one family home as of Saturday evening.

Aerials from the scene showed thick plumes of smoke filling the sky over the mountainous region. Residents of 2,586 homes, totaling around 7,800 people, had been told to evacuate, the department said.

The fire had grown from 700 acres on Friday evening to 4,125 acres by Saturday evening and was 0% contained, according to the County fire department and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire).

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