
CAPITOL CONNECTION

A Weekly Update of News and Views
For Opinion Shapers and Policy Makers

Congressman Gary G. Miller
42nd District, California



October 26, 2007

Dear Constituent:

I would like to express my gratitude to the thousands of firefighters, first responders, volunteers, and military and emergency personnel that have given their time and risked their lives to protect the lives and property of Southern California residents this week.

Never before has Southern California experienced a firestorm of this magnitude. The Santiago Fire, caused by arson in Santiago and Silverado Canyons, has now swept across more than 27,000 acres and has destroyed or damaged over 40 structures within the canyons. My thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been displaced or who have lost their homes in this tragic fire. Please know that a community stands behind you ready to help you recover and rebuild.

As we continue to fight these fires and recover from this loss, I would like to applaud the coordination between local, state, and federal emergency personnel. While the process was not perfect, after the fires are extinguished and the smoke clears we will be able to fully examine the response so we can learn how to improve the process for the future.

Currently federal, state and local agencies are working together to bring this fire under control, protect over 3,000 homes, and provide relief for affected individuals and families. Again, my heart goes out to all those that have been affected by this tragedy. Please do not hesitate to contact my Brea or Mission Viejo offices for help receiving assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary G. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

GARY G. MILLER
Member of Congress

P.S. – On the following page, a number of resources are available for those who have sustained losses or are in need of more information. My Brea office can be contacted at (714) 257-1142. I also maintain a satellite office in Mission Viejo, open the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, which can be reached at (949) 470-8484.

American Red Cross: To locate family members, the Red Cross is available to help. Please call (866) GET-INFO or visit www.redcross.org.

California Office of Emergency Services: www.oes.ca.gov

FEMA: To apply for disaster assistance, FEMA maintains a toll-free hotline at (800) 621-FEMA. Operators are standing by from 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., seven days a week. Those sustaining losses can apply for aid online at www.fema.gov.

Orange County Fire Authority: For fire containment and evacuation information, please call (714) 573-6200. Updated information on the Santiago Fire can also be found online at www.ocfa.org.

Orange County Fire Authority Arson Tip Line: A reward of \$250,000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for this week's fires. Any individual with information on these crimes is strongly encouraged to contact the Arson Tip Line at (800) 540-8282.

Orange County Health Care Agency Animal Services: For information on missing pets, please call the Animal Services Hotline at (714) 935-6848. For help with large animals and horses, please call (714) 935-7158. Information is also available online at www.ocpetinfo.com.

Orange County Local Assistance Center: For disaster relief services including information on how to replace records lost in the fires, file insurance claims, and apply for assistance and housing, Orange County has opened a Local Assistance Center. FEMA representatives will also be present to provide guidance regarding federal programs. The Local Assistance Center office is located at:

One Stop Center/Strip Mall
125 Technology Way
Irvine, CA

Orange County Public Information Hotline: For general inquiries, please call (714) 628-7085.

San Diego Gas and Electric: For information on power outages, San Diego Gas and Electric is providing continuous updates on their website at www.sdge.com/fires.

Southern California Edison: For information on power outages, Southern California Edison maintains a toll-free hotline at (800) 611-1911.

Small Business Administration: For individuals whose business operations have been disrupted, the Small Business Administration's Disaster Customer Service Center can be contacted at (800) 659-2955.

United Way: For non-emergency assistance, United Way operates a call center that can be reached by dialing 211. This number functions as a human services information and referral line. Individuals can also dial 211 to volunteer or make donations to help those affected by the fires.

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