

Wildfires still plaguing California

by UPI

LOS ANGELES -- Warm temperatures and extremely dry conditions in parts of California sparked a new fire and caused a previously contained blaze to reignite. Authorities say the Zaca fire in Los Padres National Forest became active again during the weekend and started to spread, The Los Angeles Times reported Monday. According to a spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service, the Zaca fire east of Santa Barbara County's wine country is only 70 percent contained and has burned 33,500 acres so far. Authorities said they believe it will now take until Sept. 7 to contain that blaze due to the flare-up. An aggressive air assault coupled with fire lines is credited with thwarting a fire that broke out in a portion of unincorporated Riverside County just north of Murrieta. Two hundred firefighters battled the blaze that consumed 120 acres. Riverside County Fire Capt. Fernando Herrera said authorities suspect the fire was started by someone shooting a firearm into the dry brush.

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