

ABC Webcast: California burning

Today on the webcast we look at the changing role of **young women** 1 in one of the most socially conservative countries in the world: Saudi Arabia. Robin Robbers tells that story.

Also, love them or hate them, without them there will be no **celebrity magazines** 2 , which are very popular. We'll have a first hand look t how the paparazzi do their jobs.

And from the giant **pile of trash** 3 floating in the Pacific ocean to the **million - dollar painting** 4 found in the trash, the things you are searching for on Google today.

But we are going to start with those fires raging in Southern California. Hundreds of thousands of acres have burned from Los Angeles to San Diego as fire fighters try to get those fires under control and we start our coverage with the **sights and the sounds** 5 of the last 24 hours which one firefighter likened to Armageddon.

We are ending day three of what appears to be probably the worst fire in San Diego county history and easily one of the worst fires in the history of the state of California. It appears to be well over **two hundred thousand acres** 6 that have been burned and we may be approaching the three hundred thousand mark.

- We are in what we call the perfect stock of fire conditions what we call **a recipe for disaster** 7

- All of us across this nation are concerned, for the families who have lost their homes and the many families who have been evacuated from their homes we send our prayers and thoughts to those who have been affected.

- We've had fires in this area before but it's never ... I've never known it's actually hit this many houses, it's just kind of surreal everything.

Surreal, ... to get a better sense of the sheer size of the burning area here is a satellite image taken late yesterday, the smoke is clearly visible **even from space!** 8 In the midst of this fire emergency Charles Gibson is in Southern California.

Charles Gibson reports:

- forecast for San Diego

- temperature **in the nineties** 9

- wind **35 - 45 miles an hour** 10

- humidity **in the single digits (less than 10%)** 11

How many homes do they have to evacuate? **over 230,000 homes** 12

This is the **greatest single evacuation of people** 13 of people since the hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the Gulf coast area in 2005

Neal Karlinsky reports:

Helicopters like this hold up to 300 - 375 gallons of **water** 14

The winds push them around in these canyons where **visibility** 15 sometimes drops down to zero.

If the **ground crews** 16 don't get in and work in the areas right after they drop water or foam on top of them the fires will just kicked back up again.

Evacuees in san Diego:

Who are the volunteers?

College students and retirees

What are they doing?

Policing the area, keeping it clean

How do people feel according to the reporter?

They feel grateful they have a place to stay, grateful that it seems to be safe, they are allowed to bring pets, they feel comfortable and grateful.