

# Yosemite fire brings smoke to Tahoe



Smoke from a fire in Yosemite is visible in the Lake Tahoe Basin.  
Photo/Kathryn Reed

**By Anderea Castillo, Modesto Bee**

Hikers in Yosemite National Park were evacuated by helicopter after a wildfire spread Sunday afternoon.

Tim Ludington of the National Park Service said the Meadow fire, which was started by lightning in mid-July adjacent to Mount Starr King, grew with strong winds and hot temperatures, creating a spot fire.

The fire has since dropped into Little Yosemite Valley and crossed the Merced River. About 400 acres have burned on both sides of the valley.

Gary Wuchner, also of the Park Service, said evacuations were underway for hikers near the Sunrise Trail, where the fire was burning behind Clouds Rest. He said four Type 1 helicopters carrying 1,000 gallons of water, three Type 2 helicopters carrying 200-gallon buckets and one air tanker carrying at least 1,000 gallons of fire retardant were attacking the fire.

Wuchner said six Hotshot crews of 20 people each were expected

to arrive Sunday evening along with Yosemite fire crews. He said it takes firefighters about a day to hike into the remote area.

Ludington said the fire is expected to keep growing.

“We just got unbelievable crazy winds and unexpected hot conditions,” he said. “The fire behavior totally changed. There is a huge plume.”

**Read the whole story**