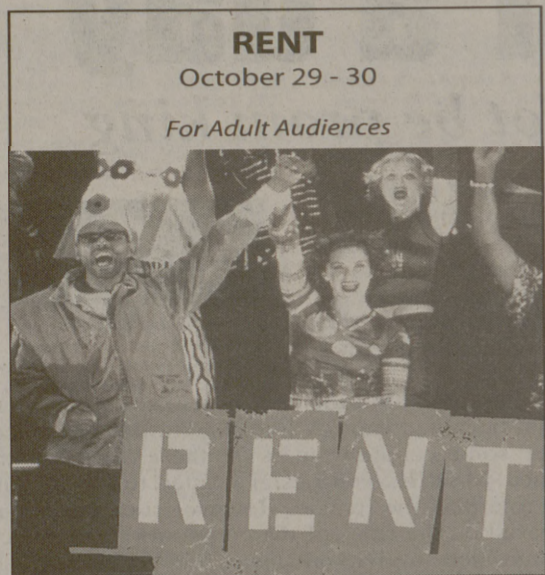


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# Denver residents flee as wildfire approaches

DENVER (AP) — In a faint haze of gray smoke, residents on the outskirts of Denver packed clothing, family photos and even a wedding dress Tuesday in case they had to flee the largest wildfire in Colorado's 126-year history.

Chris and Lori Sutton awoke at dawn to the smell of smoke drifting through an open bedroom window. Chris Sutton said the smoke in his hilly subdivision was so thick it was "like fog," though it blew away a few hours later.

"You're not sure what to do. Do you stay? Go?" he asked, standing outside his home 23 miles southwest of Denver. His wife left for work in a car stuffed with a handful of their belongings. The fire was still 10 miles away but getting closer.

By mid-afternoon, the wind-whipped blaze had grown to 80,000 acres and stretched for 15 miles along the Rockies foothills. It was moving slowly to the northeast, toward Denver, and was within 35 miles of outlying suburbs.

Hundreds of residents have left their homes, and Douglas County authorities urged the Suttons and more than 13,000 others near Sedalia — 20 miles south of Denver — to leave. Thousands more were told they may have to flee.

Fire information officer Joe

Colwell said 400 people had been cleared out of their homes in Teller County. He also said crews were pulled off the fire's southern lines as a safety measure.

"Where it's kicking up it is down on the southeast flank," he said. "It's really been creating havoc."

The fire was one of at least eight burning across Colorado, including a 10,400-acre blaze that destroyed 28 homes near Glenwood Springs, about 150 miles west of Denver. That fire was only 5 percent contained, but thousands of people were allowed to return to their homes.

The blaze southwest of Denver was nowhere close to being contained and officials said it was too dangerous to put firefighters on its northern fringes — between the flames and homes in Douglas County, one of the fastest-growing in the country.

"There is such a tremendous amount of heat that you can't put firefighters on the ground in front of it," fire information officer Tony Diffenbaugh said.

In the fire's wake, skeletal trees stood among blackened pine needles and cones on the forest floor. Flames jumped from treetop to treetop as thick, tall plumes of smoke billowed above.

Earlier Tuesday, shifting wind had helped slow the larger fire's march toward Denver and clear an otherworldly haze that

## Wildfire slows

Cooler temperatures and shifting winds helped slow the Haystack wildfire Tuesday. Still, authorities asked 13,000 people south of Denver to evacuate.



SOURCES: Associated Press; National Forest Service; ESPI, GDT

had blanketed the city for days. The haze was the worst that Steven Arnold of the state Health Department's air pollution control division could recall.

"I don't know of another situation where we've had that much smoke emission that could associate with a wildfire," he said.

# Prisons seen as breeding ground for terrorist groups

WASHINGTON (AP) — Prisons are attracting increasing attention from law enforcement as breeding grounds for terror groups seeking malcontents who can use their American citizenship to blend into society and carry out attacks.

The capture of homegrown terror suspect Jose Padilla, who the United States says was plotting for a radioactive "dirty bomb," is a reminder that the nation could have potent enemies within.

"Our prisons are stuffed full of people who have a hatred of the prison administration, a hatred of America and have nothing but time to seethe about it," said Robert Fosen, former assistant commissioner of New York state prisons.

"Oftentimes they want a way to lash out or feel important. They are very likely to join groups that facilitate that anger. Anti-American feelings help all sorts of gangs recruit in prison."

Padilla, 31, a New York City native and former Chicago gang member who also goes by Abdullah al Muhajir, is the first American accused of bringing al-Qaida's terrorist campaign to U.S. soil.

In 1992, Padilla was sent to a Florida jail for pulling a gun on another driver. When arrested, he identified himself as Catholic, according to police. U.S. officials believe Padilla converted to Islam while in jail and headed to Afghanistan and Pakistan in the late 1990s.

Tracked for some time, he was arrested May 8 upon his arrival at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on a flight from Pakistan.

Being in prison not only contributes to hard

feelings, it can sometimes provide a harbor for terrorists to act against the United States within its own borders.

Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, serving a life sentence in New York for plotting to blow up landmarks, is accused of sending messages to prison through visiting attorneys that directed terrorist acts to followers.

Officials at the U.S. Marshals Service, responsible for guarding accused American Taliban al-Walker Lindh and Zacarias Moussaoui, accused conspiracy in the Sept. 11 attacks, say they are taking extra precautions to make sure no criminal contacts occur.

Prisons and jails are adjusting to the nation's need to keep track of dissidents.

In New York, a senior prison official said the prisons have asked Islamic religious groups whether they support terrorist groups. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the group has been barred from ministering at the prisons. The official declined to identify the groups.

In Florida, prison officials said the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks have not led to new policies. Security was already high — but they are aware that some religious groups could be linked to illegal activities.

"We examine and look at every group, religious included, as a possible threat to security of the institution, to the staff and to inmates," Sterling Ivy, spokesman for the Florida prison system.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Agreement could double severance payments for laid off Enron workers

HOUSTON (AP) — A tentative agreement was reached Tuesday that could more than double the severance pay for some laid-off Enron Corp. employees.

Lawyers for the former employees, Enron and the Enron creditors' committee hope to submit the agreement for approval later this week to the federal bankruptcy court in New York, said AFL-CIO attorney Lowell Peterson.

According to the union, the negotiations resulted in an additional \$29 million in severance for the more than 4,500 people who lost their jobs when the former energy giant collapsed last year in a furor over its accounting practices.

Under the proposed agreement, former workers who already have received \$5,600 in severance could get an additional \$7,900.

### Stone completes Pentagon outer walls

WASHINGTON (AP) — Workers fitted a blackened slab of limestone into place at the Pentagon Tuesday, marking nine months since the Sept. 11 attack by completing repair of the building's damaged facade.

"You've healed this wall, and in doing so, you're helping to heal this nation," Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz told a crowd of construction workers at the site. He said the reconstruction "honors those who died here and defies those who seek not to build but to kill and destroy."

The stone placed Tuesday was engraved with the date — Sept. 11, 2001 — it was damaged when hijackers flew an American Airlines jet into the Pentagon, killing themselves and 184 others.

Behind it, Walker Lee Evey, head of the Pentagon renovation program, put a bronze "dedication capsule" containing names of the victims and mementos of the terrorist attack.

Workers have rebuilt the portions of three outer rings of the massive office building that had to be torn down after the attacks. The rebuilt sections have to be finished with wiring, fixtures and the like before furniture, and the workers can be moved back in.

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