

FIRE LEADS TO CHAOTIC SCENE AT SAN LUIS REY, 5 TVI HORSES SURVIVE HEROES TURNED MANY HORSES LOOSE AS FLAMES APPROACHED SITUATION STILL HARD TO GRASP AS HUNDREDS OF HORSES FLED BARN

A wildfire turned into an apocalyptic scene at San Luis Rey Training Center near San Diego yesterday that involved five Team Valor horses trained by Peter Miller.



Dozens of horses herded together and romped through the barn area.

infield."

Incredibly, all five horses (Belvoir Bay, Cyrielle, Ever So True, Hayabusa One and Summer Shamal) were evacuated to different places.

Belvoir Bay, a Graded stakes winner last month when she prevailed in the Senator Ken Maddy on Breeders' Cup Friday, emerged with several scrapes on her hind legs, including a nasty-looking one close to a hock, but she is expected to make a full recovery.

Belvoir Bay had already survived a storm that destroyed the barn around her at San Luis Rey in January 2016.

Ever So True was the last one with absolutely no information known about her, but partner George Chang spotted her in a video from a *Blood-Horse* reporter that was taken this morning at Trifecta Farm, also down the road from the training center. She eventually reunited with the rest of the quintet at Del Mar, along with the heroic barn staff.

Surreal video footage that went viral, including being shown on national news broadcasts this morning, was shot by one of Miller's grooms, Leo Tapia. Tapia began a Facebook live broadcast ([link to video](#)) with his cell phone as the scene outside one of Miller's barns began to escalate, and he kept recording through the moments of crisis when there was no other choice but to turn horses loose.

Dozens of horses ran wildly throughout the barn area and the training track. Tapia's video had been seen more than 6.7-million times on Facebook by late Friday morning. Another [video](#), concluding with a rush of a large group of horses, also was shot outside one of Miller's barns.

The trainer was at Los Alamitos for racing when the fire hit.

Many of Miller's charges were turned loose as the fast-moving fire spread throughout the property. Although 46 horses died, all five TVI horses survived and were evacuated without suffering major injuries.

Barry Irwin said, "This is nothing short of a miracle and the owners all owe a debt of gratitude to the unsung heroes that had the foresight and courage to turn the horses from their confined stables out into the training track



Belvoir Bay, a four-time stakes winner, emerged with a few scrapes on her hind legs.

Santa Ana winds, described as unprecedented for this time of year, aggravated the situation, which began as a brush fire about four miles northeast of San Luis Rey just after noon Pacific time and arrived at the training center two hours later. The fire has destroyed at least 65 homes, according to the San Diego Union-Tribune.

LINKS

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[***DRF: At Del Mar, Community Gathers To Bring Refuge***](#)

[***San Diego Union-Tribune: Bonsall Stampede***](#)

[***Blood-Horse: Facebook Live Video Depicts San Luis Rey Rescue Efforts***](#)

[***Blood-Horse: A Time For Heroes***](#)

[***DRF: For Fast-Acting Miller Stable, Fire Could Have Been More Tragic***](#)