



EMD BULLETIN

Emergency Management Department

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STATION FIRE, HAZARDOUS AIR QUALITY, HOT TEMPERATURES AND FIRE WEATHER FORECAST 9/2/09 BULLETIN #8 – 2000 hours

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Information Sources:

- UpdateLA: (<http://www.updatela.com/>)
- ReadyLA: (<http://www.readyla.org/>)
- Twitter: (<http://twitter.com/readyla>)
- Facebook: (<http://www.facebook.com/readyla>)
- TTY/TDD: 3-1-1 or (213) 473-3221 or toll-free (866) 452-2489
- City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Information Line: (800) 439-2909
- L.A. County Department of Mental Health ACCESS Center: (800) 854-7771
- American Red Cross - (888) 737-4306

About the Emergency Management Department (EMD)

The Emergency Management Department was established by ordinance in 2000 by the City Council and Mayor. EMD is dedicated to leading the City in comprehensive emergency management including: planning, mitigation, preparation, response to and recovery from natural, manmade and accidental incidents of high consequence.

STATION FIRE UPDATE - 1900 HOURS

This fire still remains largely uncontrolled. Winds are picking up, causing additional factors that will add to the difficult challenges of rough terrain, low visibility due to smoke, high humidity, and hot temperatures. Fire behavior is extremely active with rapid rates of spread and flame lengths up to 80 feet. The cause is still under investigation. Reported statistics on the fire are 140,150 acres and 28 percent containment. LA County Fire Department reports 103 structures damaged or destroyed; 6 residences damaged, 62 residences destroyed, 3 commercial destroyed, 5 other damaged, and 27 other destroyed. None of the above reported are in City of Los Angeles limits. Fire activity within City of Los Angeles jurisdiction is now minimal and consists mainly of hot spots or residual from last night's fire containment activity. Current open fire line is 95 miles. The movement of the fire is east and air resources are a major portion of the tactical coordinated attack strategy on this stubborn fire. Improving weather conditions may favor containment operations in the hours ahead.

Foothill communities are still vulnerable to the behavior of this fire. Residents who have been allowed to return are advised that some firefighting apparatus staged in their neighborhood may be precautionary only. As in any fire, the situation is dynamic and residents should follow all directions issued by public safety officials.

A number of evacuation orders have been lifted. For a listing of areas in Los Angeles County refer to the following website, www.fire.lacounty.gov/. An overview of evacuations and school closures are on page three (4) of this bulletin.

Fire behavior will be extremely active in the Mt. Wilson area through early evening. Day operations in and around Mt. Wilson will continue to construct, improve and maintain indirect line and mitigation measures. Tonight's conditions around Mt. Wilson will allow for containment operations. Structure protection will remain in place.

Initial cost estimate reports of the Station Fire are approximately \$21 million. Final specific accounting will go on after this incident is closed and operations cease.

ALERT LA COUNTY – MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Los Angeles County's emergency mass notification system is called Alert LA County. It is used to contact County residents and businesses in case of emergency. Listed and unlisted land line telephone numbers are already included in the database and do not need to be registered. However, residents can register their cell phone number, Voice over IP phone number, and e-mail address to receive recorded phone messages, text messages or e-mail messages at <http://www.alert.lacounty.gov>.

POWER ADVISORY

The Station fire has impacted the Mt. Disappointment communications site. LA County Internal Services Department (ISD) is currently working to provide emergency back-up equipment, supplies and fuel for the generator. SCE customers impacted should call the 800 number for general information: 1-800-655-4555.

All DWP water tanks and reservoirs in the area of the fire remain full and pumping stations in normal operating mode. There is no major power or water supply issue. California Independent System Operator (ISO) has not issued any alerts, warning and emergency notices regarding excessive service demands statewide.



EVACUATION AREAS INFO - CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Evacuations in most of L.A. City are completely lifted with the exception of the Riverwood Ranch and Blanchard Canyon areas. Please note that individuals entering these areas may be required to provide identification with address information. LAFD fire patrols as well as increased LAPD patrols will be in place.

EVACUATION AREAS INFO - OTHER

For updated information on evacuation areas outside of the City of Los Angeles, contact the following LA County Fire Department number (323) 881-2411. This number is available daily until midnight. Information can also be obtained at the following Los Angeles County Fire website, www.fire.lacounty.gov . Additional information can be obtained by dialing 211 or logging on to <http://www.211la.org/>

AMERICAN RED CROSS SHELTERS – Reported by ARC

- Golden Valley High School (27051 Robert C. Lee Pkwy – Santa Clarita, 91350)
- Marie Kerr Park Recreational Center (2723 A Rancho Vista Blvd., Palmdale 93550)
- La Canada High School (4463 Oak Grove Dr., La Canada Flintridge, 91011-3797)
- Verdugo Hills High School (10625 Plainview Avenue, Tujunga, 91042)

This location below is on stand-by if additional locations are needed:

- La Crescenta Valley High School (2900 Community Ave., La Crescenta, 91214)

PET EVACUATION CENTERS (LARGE AND SMALL ANIMALS)

- Pierce College, 6201 Winnetka Ave., Woodland Hills (Horses only)
- La Canada High School, 4463 Oak Grove, La Canada (small animals)
- Pasadena Humane Society, 361 S. Raymond, Pasadena
- Loma Alta County Park at Lincoln and Loma Alta, Altadena
- Humane Society, 401 N. Verdugo, Glendale
- Baldwin Park Shelter (For Altadena Residents), 4275 N. Elton St., Baldwin Park 626-962-3577
- Lancaster Animal Shelter, 5210 W. Ave. I, Lancaster, CA 93536, (661) 940-4191
- Mission Shelter, 15321 Brand Blvd, Mission Hills 91345, All City residents, (small animals) (818) 837-2609
- Los Angeles Equestrian Center, 480 W Riverside Dr, Burbank, CA 90027 (large animals)

SCHOOL CLOSURES

School closure summary:

- Glendale Unified School District – School to reopen 9/3
- Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District – Schools not in session until 9/8
- Los Angeles Unified School District - Schools in the impacted area are not in session until 9/10
- Pasadena Unified School District - Schools not in session until 9/10

ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST CLOSURE (INCLUDING LABOR DAY WEEKEND)

As a result of extreme fire activity, and to protect public health and safety, Angeles National Forest officials are implementing an area closure of the Big Tujunga and Arroyo Seco Canyons , including California State Highway 2, Big Tujunga Canyon Road and Upper Big Tujunga Canyon Road and other lands in the vicinity of the Station Fire, effective 6:00 p.m. today. The closure will last until the Station Fire has been fully contained. For additional details please visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles/> .

HAZARDOUS AIR QUALITY - LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

***Questions about this air quality alert can be directed to (213) 240-8144. ***

Due to several fires burning in Southern California, air quality continues to be adversely affected in several parts of Los Angeles County. According to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), smoke from the Station Fire near La Cañada has caused **poor** air quality in the San Gabriel Mountains and the West San Gabriel Valley. Areas of direct smoke impact include Altadena, La Cañada, Flintridge, La Crescenta, Tujunga, and Sunland.

The Los Angeles County Health Officer, Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, urges all individuals in these areas, or areas where there is visible smoke or the odor of smoke, to avoid unnecessary outdoor **and indoor** physical exertion, such as exercise. "In all areas of visible smoke or where there is an odor of smoke, all individuals are urged to be cautious and to avoid unnecessary outdoor activities. We are also advising schools that are in session in smoke-impacted areas to suspend outside physical activities in these areas, including physical education and after-school sports, until conditions improve," said Jonathan E. Fielding, MD, MPH, Director of Public Health and County Health Officer.

Additional areas that may be impacted by smoke include: the Santa Clarita Valley, San Fernando Valley, and East San Gabriel Valley.

Non-school related sports organizations, such as Little Leagues for children and adults, are advised to cancel outdoor practices in areas where there is visible smoke, soot, or ash, or where there is an odor of smoke. This also applies to other recreational outdoor activity, such as hikes or picnics, in these areas. Throughout Los Angeles County, sensitive individuals, such as those with heart disease, asthma or other respiratory disease, should follow these recommendations and stay indoors as much as possible even in areas where smoke, soot, or ash cannot be seen or there is no odor of smoke:

"It is difficult to tell where ash or soot from a wildfire will go, or how winds will affect the level of dust particles in the air, so we ask all individuals to be aware of their immediate environment and how it might affect their health," said Dr. Fielding.

People can participate in indoor sports or other strenuous activity in areas with visible smoke, soot, or ash, provided the indoor location has air conditioning that does not draw air from the outside and it has closed windows and doors to protect the cleanliness of indoor air. If not, it is recommended that all individuals follow these guidelines as if they were outside.

The following recommendations will help you protect yourself and your family from harmful effects of bad air quality:

- If you see or smell smoke, or see a lot of particles and ash in the air, avoid unnecessary outdoor activity to limit your exposure to harmful air. This is especially important for those with heart or lung disease (including asthma), the elderly and children.
- If outdoor air is bad, try to keep indoor air as clean as possible by keeping windows and doors closed. Air conditioners that re-circulate air within the home can help filter out harmful particles.
- Avoid using air conditioning units that only draw in air from the outside or that do not have a re-circulating option. Residents should check the filters on their air conditioners and replace them regularly. Indoor air filtration devices with HEPA filters can further reduce the level of particles that circulate indoors.
- If it is too hot during the day to keep the doors or windows closed and you do not have an air conditioning unit that re-circulates indoor air, consider going to an air conditioned public place, such as a library or shopping center, to stay cool and to protect yourself from harmful air.

- Do not use fireplaces (either wood burning or gas), candles, and vacuums. Use damp cloths to clean dusty indoor surfaces. Do not smoke.
- If you have symptoms of lung or heart disease that may be related to smoke exposure, including severe coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, wheezing, chest tightness or pain, palpitations, nausea or unusual fatigue or lightheadedness, contact your doctor immediately or go to an urgent care center.
- When smoke is heavy for a prolonged period of time, fine particles can build up indoors even though you may not be able to see them. Wearing a mask may prevent exposures to large particles. However, most masks do not prevent exposure to fine particles and toxic gases, which may be more dangerous to your health.

The following is recommended for pets:

- Avoid leaving your pets outdoors, particularly at night. Pets should be brought into an indoor location, such as an enclosed garage or a house.
- If dogs or cats appear to be in respiratory distress, they should be taken to an animal hospital immediately. Symptoms of respiratory distress for dogs include panting and/or an inability to catch their breath. Symptoms for cats are less noticeable, but may include panting and/or an inability to catch their breath.

More information on health advisories and other public health information can be found at <http://www.lapublichealth.org/>

HEALTH ADVISORY: PRACTICE SAFE CLEAN-UP AFTER FIRE

The Los Angeles County Health Officer, Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, advises people to take precautions during clean-up following a fire. Ash, soot, dust, and other airborne particles may have been deposited inside and outside of homes and businesses. While ash from wildfires is relatively non-toxic and similar to ash that may be found in a home fireplace, it may be irritating to the skin, nose and throat. Exposure to ash in air might trigger asthmatic attacks in people who already have asthma.

Ash Clean-up:

- Do not allow children to play in ash, especially in wet or damp ash.
- Wash toys before children play with them.
- Bathe pets to rid them of ash.
- During clean-up, wear gloves such as household dish washing gloves, long sleeved shirts and long pants to avoid skin contact. If you do get ash on your skin, wash it off as soon as possible.
- If you have a vegetable garden or fruit trees, wash the fruit or vegetables thoroughly before eating them.
- Avoid getting ash into the air as much as possible. Do not use leaf blowers or take other actions that will put ash into the air. Instead, gentle sweeping of indoor and outdoor surfaces, followed by wet mopping, is the best way to clean an area with ash. A solution of bleach and water may be used to disinfect an area, if desired.
- Shop vacuums and regular household vacuum cleaners do not filter out small particles, but instead blow such particles into the air where they can be breathed. Use of regular vacuums is not advised however HEPA-filter vacuums could be used.
- A dust mask, such as a surgical mask or a mask rated N-95, may be worn during clean-up to avoid breathing in ash and other airborne particles.
- Avoid washing ash into storm drains whenever possible. Use as little water as possible when cleaning an area of ash.
- Collected ash may be disposed of in the regular trash by placing it in a plastic trash bag first.

- If a job appears to be too big, hire a professional cleaning service. There are several businesses in LA County that specialize in post-fire clean-up that may be found in the phone book. Please contact a professional if there is substantial damage or destruction to a structure.

Food Safety:

Some homeowners may find that their kitchens have ash, soot, dust, and other airborne particles. The following is advised to maintain food safety:









- Plastic bottles of liquid, such as water, that have been covered with ash should be discarded. It is not enough to rinse off the bottle as these particles contaminate the caps, making them very difficult to decontaminate.
- Food that has not been stored in waterproof or airtight containers and has been covered with ash should be discarded. This includes products that have been stored in cardboard or other soft packaging.
- Food stored in sealed, previously unopened glass or metal cans or jars, such as baby food, should be safe for use. Clean before opening and transfer the contents to another container before eating.
- For those that have experienced power outages, it is best to throw away perishable food, such as meat, dairy products and eggs. Items that have defrosted in the freezer during a power outage should also be discarded.

UPDATED WEATHER

Current reporting indicates stabilization of weather over the fire with relative humidity of 13 to 23% in lower elevations, 17 to 30% in upper elevations. The concern tonight relating to the fire's behavior is a predicted convection condition. However the excellent relative humidity is a positive factor and there are forecasted southwest sea breezes coming in over land.

Most valley and desert temperatures are ranging between 95 and 103 degrees. The warmest mountain locations are expected to climb to around 100 degrees. In addition to the heat, this high pressure system has brought some monsoonal moisture into Southern California. This has resulted in a higher humidity index across most locations. Increased humidity generally means greater human discomfort and congruent heat index values. With the combination of heat and humidity, temperatures may exceed 100 degrees in many locations. The increased moisture will keep nights at warmer temperatures with many inland areas remaining in the 70's overnight. There is also a slight chance of thunderstorms this afternoon and evening across the Los Angeles and Ventura County mountains, as well as the Antelope Valley.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY – SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

6 am		9 am		12 pm		3 pm		6 pm		9 pm	
	69°F		77°F		92°F		95°F		88°F		78°F
Feels 69°F	Like	Feels 78°F	Like	Feels 90°F	Like	Feels 93°F	Like	Feels 86°F	Like	Feels 78°F	Like
Day						Night					
 Sunny High 97°F Precip 0% Wind: From WSW at 10 mph Max. Humidity: 32%						 Clear Overnight 68°F Low Precip 0% Wind: From S at 7 mph Max. Humidity: 48%					

There is an increased risk of heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke during periods of excessive heat. Firefighters, police officers and City employees who work outdoors should hydrate prior to and during their assigned shifts. Children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable during hot weather. City employees should evaluate all situations where children and the elderly may be exposed to excessive heat and call 9-1-1 when appropriate.

Because of the increasing humidity and heat index the City will remain in Phase 1 of the Extreme Heat and Cold Annex. The Annex can be found at:

http://insidela.ci.la.ca.us/eoo/eoosubcommpttf/eointraeoosubcommpttf236860629_06022009.pdf

Libraries, Senior Centers and Recreation and Parks facilities are available to provide relief from the heat. Information on locations and hours of operations are available at:

- Libraries – Call (213) 228-7000 or <http://www.lapl.org/branches/>.
- Senior Centers - <http://www.lacity.org/RAP/dos/senior/senior.htm>
- Recreation and Parks Facilities - www.laparks.org

A list of cooling centers operated by Los Angeles County can be found at

<http://css.lacounty.gov/docs/July%202009%20Community%20Cooling%20Centers.pdf>