



EMD BULLETIN

Emergency Management Department

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STATION FIRE UPDATE, HAZARDOUS AIR QUALITY, HOT TEMPERATURES AND FIRE WEATHER FORECAST 9/4/09 BULLETIN #11 – 1000 hours

UNLESS CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE FOR THE WORSE, THIS BULLETIN WILL BE DISCONTINUED FOR THE LABOR DAY WEEKEND. THE NEXT BULLETIN WILL BE ISSUED AT 1000 HRS ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2009.

This bulletin contains information and updates on the following items:

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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
InsideLA	http://insidela.ci.la.ca.us/eoo/iframe_emd_bulletins.htm

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
American Red Cross	(888) 737-4306

STATION FIRE UPDATE - 1000 HOURS

Crews remain on the scene of the Station Fire that is burning in the Angeles National Forest. The fire has grown to 148,258 acres and is now 42 percent contained. At least 62 homes, cabins, and other structures have been destroyed, mainly in the Tujunga Canyon and Acton areas. Homes, commercial properties, and other structures remain threatened and approximately eleven homes in Dillon Divide were evacuated Thursday morning. The fire is also active in its northeast sector, near Mt Wilson. Two firefighters were killed while fighting the fire and three civilians were burned by flames. Full containment is expected on September 15. There are no remaining evacuation areas in the City of Los Angeles.

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.

Evacuation centers are open at the following locations:

- Verdugo High School, 10625 Plainview Ave, Tujunga
- La Canada High School, 4463 Oak Grove Drive, La Canada
- Golden Valley High School, 27051 Robert C. Lee Parkway, Santa Clarita
- Marie Kerr Park, 39700 30th St W, Palmdale

The following roads have been shut down:

- Little Tujunga Rd between Placerita Canyon Rd and Osborne St
- Big Tujunga Rd between Mt Gleason Ave and Angeles Forest Hwy
- Angeles Forest Hwy between Aliso Canyon Rd and Angeles Crest Hwy
- Chaney Trail at Angeles National Forest Gate
- Angeles Crest Hwy, between Big Pines Hwy and the Angeles National Forest Boundary in La Canada Flintridge

ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST CLOSURE (INCLUDING LABOR DAY WEEKEND)

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. The closure will last until the Station Fire has been fully contained. For details please visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles/>.

AIR QUALITY - LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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

New in this issue: The areas of "unhealthy for all individuals" air quality has expanded to include East San Fernando Valley, West and East San Gabriel Valley, San Gabriel Mountains, and Santa Clarita Valley. Sensitive individuals living in the West San Fernando Valley should especially take note of recommendations.

According to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), smoke from the Station Fire near La Cañada has caused **poor** air quality that affects all individuals in the San Gabriel Mountains, the West and East San Gabriel Valley, the East San Fernando Valley, and the Santa Clarita Valley. Areas of direct smoke impact include the foothill communities of Altadena, La Cañada, Flintridge, La Crescenta, Tujunga, Sunland, Montrose and Acton. 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.

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 LA County and especially in the West San Fernando Valley, 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.

Additional health advisories and other public health information available 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.

Recommendations for ash clean-up include:

- 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

Hot weather to continue across inland areas on Friday. Strong upper level high pressure over the Southwestern states will continue to bring hot weather across inland areas on Friday with daytime temperatures remaining well above average for this time of year. Most valley and desert temperatures are expected to range between 95^o and 104^o with the warmest mountain locations expected to climb to around 100^o. This high pressure system is bringing some monsoonal moisture into Southern California resulting in higher humidity's across most locations. The increased humidity will bring greater human discomfort. Heat index values, a combination of heat and humidity will exceed 100^o in many locations approaching critical heat warning thresholds in some valley areas. The increased moisture will keep very warm nights with many inland areas remaining in the 70^os during the next couple of nights. An upper level trough is expected to move into Northern California on Friday bringing a few degrees of cooling across many locations. More significant cooling is expected over the weekend as an onshore flow and marine influence increases.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY – September 4, 2009

6 am	9 am	12 pm	3 pm	6 pm	9 pm
 69°F	 76°F	 89°F	 92°F	 86°F	 75°F
Feels Like 69°F	Feels Like 78°F	Feels Like 87°F	Feels Like 90°F	Feels Like 84°F	Feels Like 75°F
Day			Night		
 Sunny High 94°F Precip 0% Wind: From WSW at 10 mph Max. Humidity: 35% UV Index: 9 Very High			 Clear Overnight Low 66°F Precip 0% Wind: From SSE at 7 mph Max. Humidity: 54%		

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/eointraeooosubcommpttf236860629_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>