

## Emergency Management Department

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### **STATION FIRE, HAZARDOUS AIR QUALITY, HOT TEMPERATURES AND FIRE WEATHER FORECAST BULLETIN #6 – 0900 hours**

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Information is also available at:

- 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
- L.A. City Emergency Information Hotline: (800) 439-2909

Other Important Phone Numbers:

- L.A. County Department of Mental Health ACCESS Center - 1-800 854-7771
- 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.

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## **STATION FIRE UPDATE - 0900 HOURS**

Firefighters are making headway in their battle against the Station Fire. Steep terrain has left Pacoima Canyon and Devil's Canyon as the two problem spots in strategizing for containment. Command will manage operations to include pinching the fire in these difficult areas. Dozers still have 95 miles of fire line to build. Current statistics on the fire are 140,000 acres and 22 percent containment. At least 62 structures have been destroyed, mainly in the Tujunga Canyon and Acton areas. Governor Schwarzenegger declared a State of Emergency for Los Angeles County in order to allocate additional resources to the Station Fire. The Declaration remains in effect. Two firefighters were killed while fighting the fire on Sunday afternoon and three civilians were burned by flames on Monday.

Incident Commander in this operational period is U.S Forest Service Mike Dietrich. Tactical burn operations have taken place above Woodriver Ranch area, Blanchard Canyon and Haynes Canyon. Results of the strategy will be evaluated in the next hour. Preliminary observations indicate success. The relative humidity has increased which is preventing the placed flares from lighting the brush to initiate a controlled burn. 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.

Evacuation orders have been lifted in the La Crescenta area. For information on evacuations and school closures refer to page 3 of this bulletin.

The Mount Wilson communications center remains undamaged by the Station Fire's path though protection was challenging due to difficult terrain, low visibility due to smoke, and high temperatures. Air drops were a large factor in the successful halt of the fire's path into this critical communications infrastructure.

Initial cost estimate reports of the Station Fire are coming in at around \$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**

Southern California Edison continues advising customers in the Santa Clarita, Lancaster and Palmdale areas, to conserve energy. Many transmission lines have been damaged by the fire. Customers are asked to turn off and unplug unnecessary electrical equipment, especially sensitive electronics. Other recommended actions are:

- Keep flashlights handy in case of a service interruption
- Do not use candles for lighting, they pose a fire hazard
- **DO NOT COOK INDOORS** with charcoal or other fossil fuels not meant for indoor use
- Leave one light switch on if power outage occurs, serves as a signal when service resumes

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.

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## **EVACUATION AREAS**

For updated information on evacuation areas, 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 website, [www.fire.lacounty.gov](http://www.fire.lacounty.gov).

Glendale: Mandatory evacuations have been reduced to a smaller area at Markridge and Skyridge and Markridge St and Boston.

## **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 (large animals)
- 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-All schools closed
- Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District – All schools closed until 9/8
- Los Angeles Unified School District-Schools in the impacted area are not in session until Sept. 9.
- Pasadena Unified School District-Schools not in Session until September 10.



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## **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 (AQMD), smoke from the Station Fire near La Cañada has caused hazardous 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, Central Los Angeles County, 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.

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.

For 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.

### **WEATHER**

Most valley and desert temperatures are expected to range 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 is bringing some monsoonal moisture into Southern California. This will result 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 3, 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 <b>97°F</b> Precip 0% Wind: <b>From WSW at 10 mph</b> Max. Humidity: <b>32%</b>						 Clear Overnight <b>68°F</b> Low Precip 0% Wind: <b>From S at 7 mph</b> Max. Humidity: <b>48%</b>					

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](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](http://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>