



EMD BULLETIN

Emergency Management Department

James Featherstone, General Manager

200 North Spring Street, Room 1533, Los Angeles, CA 90012 ♦ Telephone: 213-978-2222

TTY: 213-473-6296 ♦ Web <http://www.lacity.org/emd/>

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SUBJECT: UNHEALTHY AIR QUALITY, HOT TEMPERATURES AND FIRE WEATHER FORECAST BULLETIN #2

UNHEALTHY AIR QUALITY ADVISORY FROM THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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

Due to local fires, air quality may continue to be adversely affected in several parts of Los Angeles County. The Los Angeles County Health Officer, Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, recommends that all individuals take precautions when outdoors in areas where there may be visible smoke or an odor of smoke.

“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. Sensitive individuals, such as those with heart disease, asthma or other respiratory disease, should stay indoors as much as possible even in areas where smoke, soot, or ash cannot be seen or there is no odor of smoke.

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.

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 particles and ash in the air, avoid unnecessary outdoor activity. 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.
- Also, do not use fireplaces (either wood burning or gas), candles, and vacuums. Use damp cloths to clean dusty indoor surfaces. Do not smoke.

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.



- 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.

HOT TEMPERATURES

The National Weather Service reports that hot weather will continue over much of Southwest California into the weekend. Widespread triple digit temperatures are expected over the interior sections of the southland. **Today and Friday will be the hottest days with temperatures approaching approach 110 degrees in a few locations in the valleys, foothills and deserts.** Even the coastal sections will be quite warm today and Friday with temperatures rising into the 80s at many beach locations. Highs could approach 100 degrees across inland sections of Los Angeles County including downtown Los Angeles. Slight cooling is expected on Saturday. More significant cooling is expected on Sunday. With humidity readings likely remaining in the single digits for most of the day today and Friday heightened fire weather concerns will be present.

DWP reported no power supply problems in the City over the weekend and the California Independent System Operator has not issued an alerts, warning and emergency notices regarding excessive service demands statewide.

The City remains in Phase 1 of the Extreme Heat and Cold Annex. The Annex can be found at:
http://insidela.ci.la.ca.us/eoo/eosubcommpttf/eointraeosubcommpttf236860629_06022009.pdf

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.

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

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>)

FIRE WEATHER FORECAST

The National Weather Service has continued to issue a Red Flag Warning for continued low humidity, but the current weather does not meet Fire Service criteria for Red Flag, which includes higher winds than we will see through the weekend. These conditions are expected to continue through Sunday with the first cooling perhaps on Monday. Fuels remain very dry. According to Fire Weather Predictive Services in Riverside the general fire activity may increase over the next few days due to the hot and dry conditions, however winds are expected to remain light throughout the weekend. Please direct any questions to the LAFD Division 3 Office at (818) 756-8636

The EMD Duty Officer can be contacted at 213-200-6414 or emddutyofficer@lacity.org