



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/>

STATION FIRE, HAZARDOUS AIR QUALITY, HOT TEMPERATURES AND FIRE WEATHER FORECAST 9/3/09 BULLETIN #9 – 0900 hours

This bulletin contains information and updates on the following items:

- Station Fire Page 2
- Alert LA County Mass Notification SystemPage 2
- Power Advisory Page 2
- Evacuation Areas Information Page 3
- Red Cross Shelters Page 3
- Pet Evacuation Centers (Large and Small Animals) Page 3
- School Closures Page 3
- Angeles National Forest Closure Page 3
- Hazardous Air Quality Advisory - Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Page 4
- Health Advisory: Clean-up After Fire - LA County Department of Public Health Page 5
- Updated WeatherPage 6

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
- 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 - 0900 HOURS

The Station Fire has burned 144,743 acres and remains 38 percent contained after another day of improving fire conditions. 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.

Concern to LA City is now reduced to a minimum. The area in Big Tujunga is repopulated and no City of Los Angeles areas are under any evacuation or restrictions. Residents in the area will however still see a heavy fire apparatus presence, this is normal and residents should not be alarmed. Fire brush patrol units will continue to patrol the areas where the fires are out as a precautionary measure and LAPD has increased patrol in and around the burn area.

As of this time, there is no specific threat to the City of Los Angeles from Little Tujunga Canyon, although there have been approximately 60 homes in the unincorporated area in upper Little Tujunga Canyon under mandatory evacuation.

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

Approximately 650 Southern California Edison (SCE) customers were without power as of 4 p.m. PDT yesterday in the wildfire areas. There are 319 customers affected in the Acton and Palmdale areas and 138 customers in the Tujunga and La Cañada-Flintridge areas as a result of the Station Fire. There are 108 customers without service in Azusa Canyon due to the Morris Fire. The remaining customers are located in various other areas affected by wildfires. 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

Evacuation orders have been lifted for all communities except anyone in Dukmejian Wilderness Park and 11 to 20 homes in the Dillon Divide area. That area is in the zip code 91342. Only residents are allowed in the Riverwood, Sister Elsie Canyon, and Blanchard Canyon.

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/>

STREET CLOSURES

The following roads have been closed due to the Station Fire:

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

For additional road closure information, visit: <http://dpwgis.co.la.ca.us/website/roadclosures/main.cfm>

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)
- 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 today - 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. ***

The air quality Alert for Thursday, September 3, 2009 has been changed from "hazardous" to "poor", and Central Los Angeles County has been removed from the list of areas that may be adversely affected by smoke.

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 **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.

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 will continue across inland areas through Thursday. Strong upper level high pressure over the Southwestern states will continue to bring hot weather across inland areas through Thursday. Daytime temperatures will remain well above average for this time of year. Most valley and desert temperatures are expected to range between 95^o and 103^o, while the warmest mountain locations are expected to climb to around 100^o. In addition to the heat this high pressure system is bringing some monsoonal moisture into Southern California resulting in higher humidities across most locations. The increased humidity will bring greater human discomfort. The heat index values, a combination of heat and humidity, will exceed 100^o in many locations. 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 onshore flow and marine influence increase.

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.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY – September 3, 2009					
6 am	9 am	12 pm	3 pm	6 pm	9 pm
 69°F	 76°F	 91°F	 94°F	 88°F	 77°F
Feels Like 69°F	Feels Like 78°F	Feels Like 89°F	Feels Like 92°F	Feels Like 86°F	Feels Like 78°F
Day			Night		
 Sunny High 96°F Precip 0%			 Clear Overnight Low 68°F Precip 0%		
Wind: From W at 9 mph Max. Humidity: 34% UV Index: 10 Very High			Wind: From SE at 6 mph Max. Humidity: 49%		
Sunrise: 6:28 AM PT Avg. High: 89°F Record High: 109°F (1982)			Sunset: 7:17 PM PT Avg. Low: 61°F Record Low: 48°F (1942)		

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>