



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SBCoFD Implements Red Flag Warning Program

As Santa Ana winds and the possibility of wildfires loom on the horizon, your local San Bernardino County Fire Department (SBCoFire) has implemented some important programs to keep this county safe and the fire chiefs presented them in a press conference today in Devore. The focus of the press conference was the Red Flag Warning program.

In an effort to promote Wildfire Readiness within San Bernardino County, SBCoFire has implemented the Red Flag Community Notification program. When conditions for extreme fire danger arise and the National Weather Service posts a Fire Weather Watch or a Red Flag Warning, residents will see a red flag flown below the American Flag at all SBCoFire fire stations within the affected area. Residents will then know to prepare by focusing on preparation and prevention in and around their homes.

“The Red Flag Warning program is designed to enhance public safety by providing a visual reminder that extreme fire conditions are predicted or present.” stated Fire Chief Mark Hartwig. “This program is another tool in reaching out to communities during Red Flag Warnings and asking them to take extra precautions.”

Deputy Chief Jim Johnstone reiterated that SBCoFD is poised and prepared to defend life and property within the county. He states, “San Bernardino County Fire has an arsenal of resources readily available. These include our specialized firefighting workforce, gel task force, dozers, hand crews, and a partnership with the Sheriff’s Dept. for water dropping helicopters.” SBCoFire continuously monitors all factors that contribute to the potential for large and damaging wildfires and staff our resources accordingly.

Along with the Red Flag Warning program, the Chiefs discussed other prevention tools such as the Ready! Set! Go! program. “This program is about helping residents understand how their home’s location, surrounding vegetation, construction elements, and other factors place them at risk during a wildfire.” Fire Marshal Mike Horton stated. Defensible space, disaster plans, and evacuation preparedness all make up the Ready! Set! Go! program to help citizens protect themselves and their family.

SBCoFire asks that you be our eyes and ears, our lookouts. If you see smoke or someone doing something that potentially can start a fire, call 9-1-1 and report it immediately. One spark is all it takes to start a devastating wildfire, especially during a Red Flag warning. Learn how you can be prepared, visit our website at www.sbcfire.org.

Courtesy photos from today’s press conference can be located at www.sbcfire.org under latest news.

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