



# NEWS



## News Headlines 6/22/2016

- Blaze on Perris Hill lights up night sky
- IE Firefighters Prepare for the Worst this Fire Season
- Man arrested in connection to hit-and-run crash Sunday that caused hours-long power outage in Victorville
- San Gabriel Complex: Firefighters brace to protect homes; Bradbury, Monrovia residents prep to flee
- Firefighters prepare for long, hot fire season and urge residents to do their part
- WILDFIRES: How Inland firefighters are planning for a long, hot summer
- Air quality reaches unhealthy levels after multiple fires blanket Southern California
- When fire threatened our homes, San Gabriel Valley residents lend each other a hand

## Blaze on Perris Hill lights up night sky

Paul Prado, Highland Community News

Posted: Monday, June 20, 2016 2:23 PM

Updated: June 20, 2016, 3:52 PM



The Perris Hill Fire produced a fiery blaze that could be seen from the foothills of Highland, last Saturday night. Photo courtesy John Miller

Last Saturday night, a fiery blaze could be seen as far as the foothills of Highland.

“You could see it from my house,” said Highland resident and Exalted Ruler of the San Bernardino Elks Lodge Cathy Callihan. “It was bright! The fire seemed fast. I hope no one was injured.”

“There was a report of a fire on Perris Hill at approximately [10:32 p.m.],” said Incident Commander Grant Hubbell. “We have 14 engine companies assisting on the fire - San Bernardino City, **San Bernardino County**, Rialto Fire Department, San Manuel, and Loma Linda.”

“The fire went around the park. It came close to the Perris Hill Bowl, but it did not reach any structures or the bowl area. Our crews kept it on the hill. We used water and ground tools to attack the fire,” Hubbell said. “They had it knocked down in about 45 minutes.”

“We had a person that was stranded on the top of the hill when the fire was going up the hills. San Bernardino City Fire Chief Tom Hannemann came to the man’s rescue and drove him down in his fire vehicle.”

“We have a crew that is dousing hot spots here at the bottom of the hills to prevent it from going any further,” said engineer John Miller of ME 221.

Five to eight acres were scorched in the late evening blaze. The audiences at the shows at the Perris Hill Bowl will have blackened hills as a backdrop to the summer performances.

There were no injuries or property damage reported. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

[http://www.highlandnews.net/news/public\\_safety/blaze-on-perris-hill-lights-up-night-sky/article\\_2d5fd8b2-372d-11e6-be02-2744a82721d2.html](http://www.highlandnews.net/news/public_safety/blaze-on-perris-hill-lights-up-night-sky/article_2d5fd8b2-372d-11e6-be02-2744a82721d2.html)

## **IE Firefighters Prepare for the Worst this Fire Season**

**Natalya Estrada, KVCR**

Aired: June 22, 2016, 6:36 AM

Inland Empire firefighters are preparing for a rough summer. Currently 48 new recruits are being trained to battle the blaze of perhaps one of the driest seasons. **San Bernardino County Fire** Battalion Chief Michael Wakoski is especially worried this year with good reason.

"The El Nino did not develop down here in Southern California like it should have or was predicted to. That's ok, but is a lot dryer down here in Southern California right now. We're starting to get fires a little earlier. Normally we don't get them until the end of July."

While there isn't a distinct fire season in California, the hot months of summer and notorious Santa Ana winds are known to spread fires across the region making them extremely difficult to contain.

"We're pretty much in fire season anytime we have about a week of warm weather or dry weather. This is Santa Ana country where we have north east winds that blow very hard and have very low humidity. With those kinds of conditions, they'll drive fires a long way and they'll get really big."

California fires are inevitable but not always predictable. Wakoski says it's not if a fire happens but when and where.

"This here is the greatest ticking time bomb, historically, you can ever imagine."

San Bernardino is the largest county in the continental United States. This makes the region difficult to manage with just a handful of firefighters to work with.

"They have a lack of resources; the vegetation is dry. You never have enough firefighters when you get a fire. No matter where it is it seems like you never have enough."

Wakoski says the department is spread throughout the entire area, a little more than 20 thousand miles, so that they're ready to tackle multiple fires. Concentrating on one area, even a high risk area, isn't always a good idea.

Fatigue is another factor in fighting fires. In order for firefighters to work efficiently and to minimize fatalities, proper rest is needed.

"When you work for 25 or 35 days straight without any time off, you start making mental mistakes. So we have to manage that fatigue. Unfortunately, sometimes we have to put our crews to rest while there's an ongoing fire. And it's just a matter of life and death and safety."

Safety is also a huge concern with the public who often try to save their properties.

"Many people are killed every year because they decide they want to stay at their house and protect it and never realize how bad it can get. And it gets bad."

At the first sign of a fire, people are heavily advised to evacuate, especially in more rural areas like Lake Arrowhead, Crestline and Big Bear. However in more populated areas, things are a little different.

"I give talks all the time about how to protect yourself against wildfires in the urban community and the first thing I tell them is 'The fire department may not come.' We don't have a fire truck for every house. We work cooperatively throughout the summer because not one department can handle the situation when it gets bad."

Battalion Chief Michael Wakoski has been a firefighter for 40 years and worked in California and the Southwestern United States.

For more information on fire safety and how to fire proof your home visit the San Bernardino County Fire Department website here.

(Follow link to listen to story)

<http://kvcnews.org/post/ie-firefighters-prepare-worst-fire-season>

---

## **Man arrested in connection to hit-and-run crash Sunday that caused hours-long power outage in Victorville**

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: June 21, 2016, 8:50 AM

Updated: June 21, 2016, 2:50 PM

VICTORVILLE — Authorities said a man was arrested in connection to a crash that left hundreds without power Sunday.

Edward Provencio, 30, of Hesperia, was arrested after authorities connected him to a hit-and-run crash that occurred early Sunday on Hesperia and City View roads.

The crash occurred just after 4 a.m. Authorities arrived and found a van with heavy damage along with a power pole sheared in half. Due to the damage, authorities were not initially able to check the van for occupants and power had to be turned off.

Southern California Edison officials arrived and secured the scene so San Bernardino County Sheriff's and **Fire Department** personnel could check on the van. However, no one was found inside the vehicle.

The crash caused an hours-long power outage in Victorville that affected 180 customers, according to SCE.

Provencio was arrested Sunday night by Hesperia Sheriff's station deputies, Victorville Sheriff's station spokeswoman Mara Rodriguez said. He was cited for the hit-and-run crash and booked into the High Desert Detention Center on an outstanding warrant.

Jail and court records show Provencio was booked on a misdemeanor bench warrant for a charge of being under a controlled substance last October. He was released from custody Monday afternoon and had no court dates scheduled as of Tuesday afternoon.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20160621/man-arrested-in-connection-to-hit-and-run-crash-sunday-that-caused-hours-long-power-outage-in-victorville>

---

## **San Gabriel Complex: Firefighters brace to protect homes; Bradbury, Monrovia residents prep to flee**

KPCC

Posted: June 21, 6:04 PM



Aircraft make water drops over the San Gabriel Complex fire on Tuesday afternoon, June 21, 2016 in Bradbury near Spinks Canyon Road. Maya Sugarman/KPCC

Twin fires that broke out in the foothills of the Angeles National Forest on Monday afternoon grew overnight and are threatening to converge, prompting officials to unify their firefighting efforts against them. Firefighters have been hampered by extremely dry and rocky terrain, sporadic wind gusts and thin staffing, as crews also work to fight wildfires in nearby San Diego and Santa Barbara counties.

Meanwhile, residents of Monrovia and Bradbury were asked to prepare to evacuate, and those who were evacuated Monday were warned it could be some time before they're allowed back in their homes.

### **MONROVIA, DUARTE RESIDENTS PREPARE TO EVACUATE**

On Tuesday afternoon, residents of Monrovia and Duarte were keeping an eye on the fire burning in their backyards.

“One moment you see it, and looks like it’s kind of contained, not coming over the ridge, but then all of a sudden you see flare-ups,” said Monrovia resident Cynthia Uribe. “That is scary — it’s very scary.”

Uribe had already transported important documents, photos and videos to her son’s house in Fontana. She had a bag of clothing packed and waiting near the door. She was also preparing chicken salad, just in case she and her husband had to leave at a moment’s notice.

Duarte resident Christine Golding was also ready. Her family’s car was packed with a few days worth of essentials; they got the dogs, cat and guinea pigs ready to leave, too.

Golding stepped outside onto her lawn every half hour or so throughout the day to check on the fire. She says her kids are a little nervous, but she and her husband are calmer, adding, “We’ve lived here for over 10 years; it’s not something that we don’t expect during the summer, to watch for brush fires.”

Martin Tanner, meanwhile, prepared his elderly parents’ house for the threat of fire. On Monday night he, along with three siblings and some nephews, hosed down the roof and the oak trees in the yard.

“We’re just camping out overnight to make sure there weren’t any embers that light up any of the oak trees,” Tanner said.

— Rebecca Plevin/KPCC

### **UPDATE 3:20 P.M.:** Explosive Fuel, Preserving Wilderness Hamper Firefighting Efforts

The San Gabriel Complex Fire is burning terrain above Duarte, and Bradbury has no known record of previous fires, so the decades-old living and dead plants have formed a super-rich fuel that is making the fire difficult to control.

Incident Commander Michael Wakoski, a battalion chief for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, says a top priority — after firefighter safety — is to keep the fire away from homes.

The fire started Monday as two separate fires — the Fish Fire above Duarte, and the Reservoir Fire, which began between the Morris and San Gabriel dams east of Highway 39.

In some respects it's like any other big wildfire in California. It's consuming chaparral, putting gigantic clouds of smoke into the sky and dropping ash throughout the region. The hot and windy environment and steep slopes make the fire difficult to reach and dangerous to fight.

But there are some key differences adding to the difficulty of this fire.

The portion of the fire that began as the Fish Fire has no history of burning, Wakoski said. When chaparral doesn't burn for decades, it becomes explosive and burns faster, hotter and is more difficult to control, he said.

"One of our top priorities is structure defense," Wakoski said. "Because of the communities that lie below the fire and with the fire history on the western flank, our biggest worry is the fire moving in a western or northwestern direction."

A wind change could send the fire closer to the homes in the foothills above Duarte, Bradbury or Monrovia, he said.

“Since the 1900s, since they’ve been doing fire history, there’s never been a fire through there,” Wakoski said. “There is a lot of dead fuels within the fuels.”

The Reservoir Fire portion has burned within the past 10 years, so it's moving more slowly than the Fish Fire.

Firefighters also face unusual restrictions trying to fight the fire as it moves into the San Gabriel Wilderness, an area within the Angeles National Forest that was set aside to preserve the wilderness character.

“They try to leave only footprints, they don’t use mechanized equipment in the wilderness and we may or may not use fire retardant in the wilderness,” Wakoski said.

Bulldozers, chainsaws and other mechanized equipment isn't allowed in the wilderness area, which means that if a tree needs to come down, it's chopped by hand with an axe or by firefighters using a two-person crosscut saw. Helicopter landing spots also have to be pre-approved.

— Sharon McNary/ KPCC

#### **UPDATE 9:21 A.M.: Fire Expands, Constituting Major Disaster, FEMA Says**

The Reservoir Fire nearly doubled overnight while the Fish Fire remained at 3,000 acres burned. Authorities have declared that the combined incident will now be referred to as the San Gabriel Complex Fire.

Firefighters were short on equipment and people Tuesday because so many resources had already been pulled up north to attack the Sherpa Fire, but they expected help to arrive Tuesday, according to L.A. County Fire Chief John Tripp.

Chief Mike Wakoski, the incident commander, said there were 610 firefighters on scene, and they're still waiting on reinforcements.

Local efforts could get a boost, though. On Monday night, FEMA granted a request for assistance on the Fish Fire from state officials.

In a statement Tuesday, FEMA noted that the fire threatens enough destruction to constitute a major disaster.

A fire management assistance grant could provide funding for up to 75 percent of eligible firefighting costs, including expenses for field camps, equipment, tools, materials and mobilization, according to FEMA.

The fire also threatens 220 KV power transmission lines and a 2.5-million water storage and distribution tank, FEMA said.

One of the fires started when a vehicle rolled off Highway 39, falling hundreds of feet and killing one person, authorities said at a press conference.

Fire crews made good progress working on the east side of the Fish Fire above Duarte overnight, but the west flank toward Monrovia and Bradbury is vulnerable, Tripp said during a press conference.

#### **EVACUATIONS & CLOSURES**

The fire had been advancing north but overnight crept south toward homes. At 4 a.m., winds picked up and pushed the fire even closer to homes, prompting warnings to Bradbury and Monrovia residents, Tripp said.

People in those communities are advised to be ready to evacuate on short notice.

“Have your medications, important documents and any supplies if we need to evacuate you,” L.A. County Sheriff Commander David Halm said.

The current weather forecast calls for a shift in winds at around 3 p.m. this afternoon, and given the potential threat from the San Gabriel Complex Fire, officials in Monrovia asking residents in the northeast section of the city to be prepared, Monrovia Deputy City Manager Lauren Vasquez said.

Vasquez said should evacuations be required, the city has a two-phase plan.

- The first phase includes all residents living east of Norumbega Drive, where it runs parallel to the Sawpit Wash, and north of Greystone Avenue.
- The second phase includes all residents living east of Myrtle Avenue and north of Greystone Avenue, and east of Shamrock and north of Foothill.

People who live in the 770 Duarte homes that have been evacuated, north of Royal Oaks Drive between Encanto Parkway and Mount Olive Drive, will not be permitted to return for a while. Firefighters first need to inspect conditions in the nearby hills where the Fish Fire was burning to make sure the fire is out in those areas.

Duarte residents have been offered use of the Duarte Community Center at 1610 Huntington Drive as an evacuation center for themselves and small animals. Large animals were being cared for at Pomona Fairplex at Gate 12. About 168 horses had already been relocated there.

Jon Myers with Red Cross said that about 30 displaced residents stayed the night at the shelter set up in Duarte. He said there are cots, food and drinks donated by local vendors and health services for people that need medical attention.

“We do this — it’s unfortunately routine for us at this point. Whenever there is an evacuation need, the Red Cross steps in and provides that shelter,” Myers told KPCC.

Duarte City Councilwoman Liz Reilly, who lives in Fish Canyon, was among those who went to the evacuation center. She told Take Two she had to leave her house with her daughter and two dogs Monday afternoon. Her daughter and the dogs headed to a pet-friendly hotel.

"The fires were so close that you could almost reach out and touch them," she said. "The reason I actually left was because the smoke was really getting to my eyes and I was having trouble breathing. So I thought it was really time to go."

Reilly said it was difficult to decide what she valued and what to take. She said she planned to create a list of those things whenever she returns home.

Until then, she and the others at the evacuation center play games like Scrabble and wait.

Only one shelter meets the needs of the San Gabriel Complex Fire, but the Red Cross is ready to expand services as needed, according to Myers.

Tripp chided individual residents who set their own timetables and triggers for evacuating their neighborhoods. Such individuals tend to wait too long to leave and add to the danger to themselves and firefighters when they clog the outgoing roads as fire equipment is rolling in, he said.



Halm reassured residents that 80 sheriff's deputies will be patrolling evacuated areas to prevent burglaries of vacated homes, and drones have been barred from flying over the area.

About 69 homes had been evacuated from the sparsely occupied territory around the Reservoir Fire. Those areas include Camp Williams, Burro Canyon and Crystal Lake. Roads in the area were also closed, including Glendale Mountain Road and Glendale Ridge Road around Mount Baldy Road.

Duarte's transit system is taking detours today due to the fire, according to the city's Facebook page.

## AIR QUALITY

Unhealthy air quality has been declared in L.A. County, especially in areas near San Gabriel. The L.A. County Department of Public Health recommended avoiding unnecessary outdoor activity if you see or smell smoke in your area. The agency also recommended keeping windows and doors closed and instead using recirculating air conditioning to keep homes cool.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District meanwhile expanded its smoke advisory from Monday, adding the West San Gabriel Valley area, Banning Pass and Coachella Valley.

<http://www.scpr.org/news/2016/06/21/61844/san-gabriel-complex-operations-combined-for-fish-a/>

---

## Firefighters prepare for long, hot fire season and urge residents to do their part

Doug Saunders, The Sun

Posted: June 21, 2016, 10:03 PM

Updated: June 22, 2016, 4:15 AM



As the Fish fire continues to burn in Duarte, firefighters in the Inland Empire are on watch around the San Bernardino National Forest as higher temperatures continue throughout the week. Watchara Phomicinda — Staff Photographer

While California continues to experience its worst drought in 1,200 years, firefighters prepare for what's already become a busy firefighting season.

In just a few days this week, several wildfires erupted in the Southland. The Border fire in San Diego County, and the Fish and Reservoir fires in San Gabriel Valley have already charred a combined 12,000-plus acres, causing evacuations and air-quality problems in and around the fires, which had yet to be contained Tuesday evening.

The two San Gabriel Valley fires, now collectively referred to as the San Gabriel Complex Fire, have prompted South Coast Air Quality Management District officials to issue a smoke advisory and unhealthy air quality warning for neighboring Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

AQMD suggests people with respiratory or heart conditions avoid vigorous outdoor activity.

Triple-digit temperatures in recent days and steep terrains have made it more difficult for firefighters battling the San Diego and San Gabriel Valley blazes.

“We are in what we call an elevated fire condition,” National Weather Service meteorologist Joe Dandrea said. “That’s when we have high heat, strong winds and very low humidity.”

In the past week, Cal Fire firefighters have responded to more than 205 fires in San Bernardino County alone. Of those, 168 involved burning vegetation. The others were structure or vehicle fires.

“No community is immune from wildland fires and everyone needs to have a plan in place,” Cal Fire spokeswoman Capt. Elizabeth Brown said. “We are urging everyone to use caution when they are in wildland or open land areas.”

Since the beginning of the year Cal Fire and firefighters from other agencies across the state have responded to more than 1,344 wildfires.

“Five years of sustained drought are causing fuels to burn much faster and hotter than in nondrought conditions,” Brown said. “The rain we received this year has created a grass crop that when dry will carry fire easily.”

A red flag warning was issued over the weekend for parts of the Inland Empire and Los Angeles County.

The drought, combined with thick, overgrown vegetation has prompted state fire authorities in San Bernardino County to raise staffing levels.

In 2003, the San Bernardino National Forest was ravaged by one of the largest firestorms in its history — the Old fire — which eventually consumed more than 90,000 acres, destroyed more than 1,000 buildings and claimed six lives.

“We are now seeing fire activity that gives residents less time to evacuate their homes,” Brown said. “This is why homeowner preparedness is key to a good defense. Firefighters will provide the offense.”

More than 4,000 firefighters battled the intense flames that were fueled by thick, dry chaparral and thousands of dead, bark-beetle-infested trees caused by several years of drought.

“The vegetation that burned during the Old fire has grown back,” Brown said. “But now we’re experiencing the longest sustained drought we’ve seen in years. Therefore the fuels are thicker, drier and are susceptible to flare up with the slightest ignition point.”

**San Bernardino County fire** has 700 firefighters ready to respond 24 hours a day, along with two bulldozers, six hand crews and several air resources, officials said.

“We are not seasonal and we don’t downsize,” county fire spokeswoman Tracey Martinez said. “We bring in additional staffing when fire conditions warrant based on heightened red flag warnings and increased fire dangers.”

Martinez said there are areas throughout the county that haven’t burned in over 100 years, and this year officials will be keeping a close eye on those untouched areas. But they can’t do it alone.

“We rely on residents to be our eyes and ears out there,” Martinez added. ““See something, say something” isn’t just for law enforcement.”

Martinez said San Bernardino County’s fire season is six weeks ahead of schedule due to winter rains. According to county fire’s predictive services department, the recent triple-digit temperatures have dried out the grass and chaparral that grew expediently because of the rainfall during the 2015 El Niño event and placed the county ahead of schedule in this year’s fire season.

“Wildfires are a year-round reality in San Bernardino County,” Martinez said. “This means that both firefighters and residents have to be on a heightened alert for the threat of wildfire. But being this far ahead of schedule is alarming.”

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160621/firefighters-prepare-for-long-hot-fire-season-and-urge-residents-to-do-their-part>

---

## **WILDFIRES: How Inland firefighters are planning for a long, hot summer**

*Between ongoing drought and recent heat wave, fire season is alarmingly ahead of schedule, officials say.*

**Doug Saunders and Brian Rokos, Press Enterprise**

Published: June 21, 2016

Updated: June 22, 2016, 9:07 AM



Watchara Phomicinda, Staff Photographer

While California continues to experience its worst drought in 1,200 years, firefighters prepare for what’s already become a busy firefighting season.

In just a few days this week, several wildfires erupted in the Southland. The Border fire in San Diego County, and the Fish and Reservoir fires in San Gabriel Valley, have charred a combined 12,000-plus acres, causing evacuations and air-quality problems.

The two San Gabriel Valley fires, now collectively referred to as the San Gabriel Complex Fire, have prompted South Coast Air Quality Management District officials to issue a smoke advisory and unhealthy air-quality warning for neighboring Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire crews have fought 328 brush fires so far in 2016. In San Bernardino County, Cal Fire has responded to 168 vegetation fires just in the past week.

“We are in what we call an elevated fire condition,” National Weather Service meteorologist Joe Dandrea said. “That’s when we have high heat, strong winds and very low humidity.”

On Tuesday morning, Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Chief John Hawkins closed seven areas particularly prone to fire:

Avery Canyon, off Gibbel Road east of State Street in Hemet; North Mountain and Indian Canyon in the San Jacinto area; Whitewater Canyon in Cabazon; a hilly area east of Menifee Road in the Nuevo/Lakeview area; the area around Sage Road and Minto Way in the community of Sage; Reinhardt Canyon north of Highway 74 and California Avenue in Hemet; and the area around the Ramona Bowl and Bautista Canyon southeast of Hemet.

A Riverside County ordinance restricts public access to these areas, except on public roadways or when access is required to get to private property. First-time violators could be fined \$100.

Also, Hawkins on June 10 suspended all burn permits issued by Cal Fire in Riverside County.

During this kind of hot, dry weather, Cal Fire/Riverside County Battalion Chief Mike Smith said it’s important for the public to be careful during any activities, such as mowing, that could cause a spark.

The public should limit such activities to the early-morning and have water or a shovel and dirt nearby. Motorists should limit offroad driving, Smith said.

“We need to remind everyone that the vast majority of fires that start across California are human-caused. And they are preventable,” Smith said.

## **DROUGHT’S EFFECTS**

Since the beginning of the year, firefighters have responded to more than 1,344 wildfires across California.

“Five years of sustained drought are causing fuels to burn much faster and hotter than in nondrought conditions,” said Capt. Elizabeth Brown, spokeswoman for Cal Fire’s unit that covers San Bernardino County. “The rain we received this year has created a grass crop that, when dry, will carry fire easily.”

The recent triple-digit temperatures dried out the grass and chaparral that grew expediently because of the rainfall during El Niño, said **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokeswoman Tracey Martinez.

According to the agency's predictive services department, that has placed the county six weeks ahead of schedule compared to a typical fire season.

With wildfires being "a year-round reality" here, Martinez said, "both firefighters and residents have to be on a heightened alert ... But being this far ahead of schedule is alarming."

Martinez said there are areas throughout the county that haven't burned in over 100 years, and this year officials will be keeping a close eye on those untouched areas. But they can't do it alone.

"We rely on residents to be our eyes and ears out there," Martinez added. "'See something, say something' isn't just for law enforcement."

In 2003, the San Bernardino National Forest was ravaged by one of the largest firestorms in its history: the Old fire, which consumed more than 90,000 acres, destroyed more than 1,000 buildings and claimed six lives.

"The vegetation that burned during the Old fire has grown back," Brown said. "But now we're experiencing the longest sustained drought we've seen in years. Therefore the fuels are thicker, drier and are susceptible to flare up with the slightest ignition point."

## **A TEAM EFFORT**

This summer's conditions make it even more important for Southern California residents to make sure they've cleared a defensible space around their homes, and have plans in case they find themselves facing flames.

"We are now seeing fire activity that gives residents less time to evacuate their homes," Brown said. "This is why homeowner preparedness is key to a good defense. Firefighters will provide the offense."

San Bernardino County fire has 700 firefighters ready to respond 24 hours a day, along with two bulldozers, six hand crews and several air resources, officials said.

"We are not seasonal and we don't downsize," Martinez said. "We bring in additional staffing when fire conditions warrant based on heightened red flag warnings and increased fire dangers."

In Riverside County, all personnel who were headed off duty are instead headed to fire stations to staff reserve engines and bulldozers, Smith said. That will help provide crews and equipment for fires both inside and outside the county.

"No community is immune from wildland fires and everyone needs to have a plan in place," Brown said. "We are urging everyone to use caution when they are in wildland or open land areas."

## **INLAND VALLEY FORECAST**

Temperatures fell 10-20 degrees Tuesday from the excessive heat of the previous two days, but they'll remain above average – and the next heat wave is already on the horizon.

**Wednesday:** Partly cloudy. Gusty evening winds. Highs 93 to 98. Lows 60 to 68.

**Thursday:** Morning clouds and fog, then sunny. Highs 93 to 98. Lows 58 to 65.

**Friday:** Sunny. Highs 94 to 99. Lows 59 to 66.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny. Highs 97 to 102.

**Sunday:** Sunny. Highs 98 to 103.

**Monday:** Mostly sunny. Highs 100 to 105.

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny. Highs 102 to 107.

Source: National Weather Service

## **AIR QUALITY**

---

With wildfires sending up smoke and intense heat adding to ozone levels, unhealthy air is forecast for the Riverside-area valleys and the Hemet/Lake Elsinore area on Wednesday. Everyone should discontinue prolonged, vigorous outdoor exercise lasting longer than one hour.

Unhealthy air for sensitive groups is forecast for the San Geronio Pass. Sensitive or susceptible people, including children, older adults and those with heart or lung disease, should minimize outdoor activity.

Moderate air quality is forecast for the Temecula/Anza area, Big Bear Lake and the Coachella Valley/Low Desert. Sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.

Source: South Coast Air Quality Management District

<http://www.pe.com/articles/fire-806403-county-san.html>

---

## **Air quality reaches unhealthy levels after multiple fires blanket Southern California**

**KPCC**

Posted: June 21, 03:31 PM



A photo of the Fish Fire on Monday, June 20, 2016. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

As the two fires that make up the San Gabriel Complex in the Angeles National Forest continue to burn, health officials are warning that the surrounding air quality is now unhealthy for everyone — not just people with respiratory problems. In Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, health officials say smoke and ash from the Sherpa Fire has also worsened air quality, but hasn't yet reached the levels of concern for those in L.A. South Coast Air Quality Management District's Sam Atwood told KPCC that the warning level on the agency's air quality index has reached "red."

“When that happens, especially when residents can see or smell smoke, they should take precautions,” Atwood said.

Smoke from wildfires can cause an assortment of adverse health effects, said Dr. Frank Gilliland, professor of preventive medicine at USC's Keck School of Medicine and director of the Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center.

"They vary from simple irritation of the eyes and respiratory tract — sore throats that kind of — to pretty serious effects, especially among sensitive groups," he said.

With wildfires, Gilliland said, it's the particulate air pollution that takes its toll on the health of people and animals. Small particulates, the size of human hair or smaller, are especially worrisome "because particles that small get deposited in the deep respiratory tract."

County health officials warned residents of the San Gabriel Valley and surrounding areas where there is visible smoke, or the smell of smoke, to avoid unnecessary outdoor exposure and to limit physical exertion (including exercise) both inside and outside.

"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," L.A. County Interim Health Officer Dr. Jeffrey Gunzenhauser said in a release.

"Non-school related sports organizations for children and adults are advised to cancel outdoor practices and competitions 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." he said.

The warning goes double for sensitive individuals, health officials said. People affected by heart disease, asthma or other respiratory disease — or those particularly sensitive to poor air quality — should stay indoors as much as possible, even when smoke, soot or ash can't be seen and there is no odor of smoke.

The advisory notes that it's OK to participate in indoor sports or other strenuous activities in areas with visible smoke, soot or ash, as long as the air conditioning system doesn't draw air from outside and windows and doors are closed to protect the air.

And for those who are driving through smokey areas, USC's Gilliland suggests closing windows, turning on the air conditioning and putting the ventilation system into 're-circulation' mode. The goal is to avoid sucking the smoke into the car's passenger cabin. "For most recent model cars, it makes a big difference in the amount of particulate matter inside," Gilliland said, adding that the re-circulation mode also helps keep out every day traffic pollutants. "So it's a good idea to use the recirculation as much as you can."

Other recommendations from L.A. County Public Health:

- 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.

They also issued these recommendations 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.

The AQMD updated its advisory for unhealthy air quality on Tuesday. The warning will be in effect until midnight Wednesday, as the San Gabriel Complex Fire sent smoke into the skies.

### **PROJECTED SMOKE PATH FROM THE SAN GABRIEL COMPLEX**

Portions of the following areas were expected to be affected, according to AQMD:

- The San Gabriel Valley
- The Pomona/Walnut Valley
- The San Gabriel Mountains
- Metropolitan Riverside
- Banning Pass area
- The Coachella Valley
- The San Bernardino Valley
- The San Bernardino Mountains
- The Big Bear Lake area

The district is urging residents in these areas to avoid any vigorous outdoor exercise such as biking, running or swimming and to stay indoors as much as possible.



“Unfortunately, this is a time to stay indoors and catch up on paperwork perhaps,” Atwood said.

## **SANTA BARBARA AND VENTURA COUNTY AIR CONCERNS**

The Ventura County Air Pollution Control District rated Tuesday's air quality in the region "moderate," noting that Tuesday through Sunday are no burn days, a measure normally taken to keep air quality from getting worse.

A cautionary smoke advisory was released on Friday for the Sherpa Fire after some haze was visible in Los Angeles County. It was lifted, but re-issued on Monday for the southern part of the county due to both smoke and falling ash. The advisory is set to remain in effect until conditions improve.

"Although winds have dispersed some of the smoke, keeping overall air quality better than expected, there can be still pockets of poor air quality. The Sherpa Fire is not yet fully contained and smoke may continue to impact local air quality," a release from the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District stated.

Read the full list of recommendations for dealing with poor air quality included in the Santa Barbara County district's release:

- Residents are urged to avoid using leaf blowers or doing any activities that will stir ash and particles up into the air.
- If you see or smell smoke in the air, be cautious and use common sense to protect your and your family's health. Everyone, especially people with heart or lung disease (including asthma), older adults, and children, should limit time spent outdoors and avoid outdoor exercise when high concentrations of smoke and particles are in the air.
- If you have symptoms that may be related to exposure to smoke and soot, contact your health care provider. Symptoms include repeated coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, wheezing, chest tightness or pain, palpitations, and nausea or unusual fatigue or lightheadedness.
- During hot weather, use your best judgment when it comes to keeping your home cool when there is smoke in your area. Keep windows and doors closed unless it is extremely hot. If you have an air conditioner, run it with the fresh air intake closed and the filter clean. If you have a whole house fan, turn it off unless it is extremely hot. If smoke is not present where you live, take the opportunity to air out your home.

<http://www.scpr.org/news/2016/06/21/61831/air-quality-reaches-unhealthy-levels-after-multi/>