

# Media Alert



Contact: Megan Blaney, PIO  
1-800-426-8689, access code 2119

October 14, 2008

Denise L. Benson, Division Manager  
San Bernardino County Fire Department  
Office of Emergency Services

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Paul Biane proclaimed a local emergency today due to the wind-driven conditions that pose a hazard to the safety of persons and property throughout San Bernardino County.

"When the Santa Ana winds are blowing in San Bernardino County, we can't wait for a major wildfire to declare a local state of emergency," Board of Supervisors Chairman Paul Biane said. "We have to make the proclamation now so we're prepared to respond with full force to any fires that do break out."

In recent days, hazardous fire conditions including strong gusty winds and low humidity have resulted in multiple fires in the City of San Bernardino, causing millions of dollars in damage to public and private property and requiring the deployment of firefighting and public safety resources. In addition, local firefighting resources have been taxed due to San Bernardino County's assistance in battling the blazes in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.

The County of San Bernardino has historically experienced multiple wildfires caused by such extreme fire and wind conditions propelled by Santa Ana winds, such as the Grass Valley and Slide Fires in 2007 and the Old and Grand Prix Fires in 2003.

Jurisdictions proclaim a local emergency when circumstances of a disaster are, or are likely to be, beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of any single county, city and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat.

A copy of this proclamation will be forwarded to the Governor of the State of California with the request that he proclaim that a State of Emergency exists. A Gubernatorial proclamation of a State of Emergency in San Bernardino County will make available the wide range of statewide resources to San Bernardino County and its cities and towns. The County will also be better able to recoup a portion of any fire suppression costs and other costs related to the disaster proclamation.



Pat A. Dennen  
Fire Chief / Fire Warden



Office of the Governor

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNOR

## PRESS RELEASE

10/15/2008 GAAS:719:08 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Governor Schwarzenegger Declares State of Emergency in San Bernardino County Due to Wildfires**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today declared a state of emergency in San Bernardino County due to fires that have burned along the Interstate 215 corridor in the City of San Bernardino and in other areas of the county.

Earlier this week, the Governor declared a state of emergency in Los Angeles and Ventura counties due to wildfires

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services has activated the State Operations Center at its Sacramento headquarters. For more information, including evacuation centers and wildfire statistics, go to [www.oes.ca.gov](http://www.oes.ca.gov) or [www.calfire.ca.gov](http://www.calfire.ca.gov).

Full text of emergency proclamation:

#### **A PROCLAMATION**

#### **BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**WHEREAS** on and after October 12, 2008, wildfires broke out in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties and these wildfires continue to spread; and

**WHEREAS** on October 13, 2008, I proclaimed a state of emergency in the counties of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties due to these wildfires; and

**WHEREAS** on and after October 13, 2008, several fires also broke out in San Bernardino County; and

**WHEREAS** the fires are being driven by high winds, and these conditions are expected to continue; and

**WHEREAS** the fires have burned along the Interstate 215 corridor in the City of San Bernardino and in other areas of the county; and

**WHEREAS** the County of San Bernardino has activated its Emergency Operations Center to support fire suppression efforts; and

**WHEREAS** the fires have destroyed at least one residence and a commercial building; and

**WHEREAS** the County of San Bernardino has historically experienced wildfires during Santa Ana wind conditions and

**WHEREAS** on October 13, 2008, the City of San Bernardino issued a local proclamation of emergency; and

**WHEREAS** on October 14, 2008, the County of San Bernardino issued a local proclamation of emergency, requesting that I issue a state proclamation of emergency; and

**WHEREAS** the circumstances of these wildfires, by reason of their magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of any single county, city and county, or city and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of section 8558(b) of the California Government Code, I find that, because of the wildfires, conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist in the County of San Bernardino.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, section 8625 of the California Government Code, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist within the County of San Bernardino.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that all agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of my Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the State Emergency Plan, and that OES provide local government assistance under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act.

**I FURTHER DIRECT** that as soon as hereafter possible, this proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this proclamation.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 15<sup>th</sup> Day of October 2008.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

DEBRA BOWEN  
Secretary of State