



NEWS



News Headlines 12/14/2017

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11 straight red-flag days, and Southern California fire weather isn't over yet

City News Service, Daily Bulletin

Posted: December 14, 2017, 6:00 a.m.

LOS ANGELES — What forecasters say is the longest run of red flag warnings they can recall in the Southland went into its 11th day today, with at least one more day of strong gusty winds and low humidity expected.

Red flag warnings signifying a high risk of wildfires are in effect and scheduled to expire at 10 a.m. Friday in Los Angeles County in the San Gabriel Mountains, the Angeles National Forest, the Santa Monica Mountains, the Santa Clarita and San Fernando valleys, beach cities, metropolitan Los Angeles, Downtown L.A., and the Hollywood Hills.

Winds of between 15 and 35 miles per hour are forecast in the areas under warning, along with gusts of up to 50 mph amid humidity levels as low as between 3 and 10 percent, according to a National Weather Service statement.

Fire warnings are also in effect in numerous areas of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, and “the Santa Barbara mountains could experience near-critical conditions” this afternoon and tonight, the statement said. “In addition, the air mass will be fairly unstable above the Thomas Fire today, resulting in a greater risk for large fire plumes,” it said. The Thomas Fire has roared through Ventura County and parts of Santa Barbara County since it broke out last week.

Sunny weather was forecast in Los Angeles County today, along with highs of 68 degrees on Mount Wilson; 69 in Palmdale; 70 in Lancaster; 73 in Santa Clarita; 76 in Avalon; 78 in Torrance and Woodland Hills; 79 in Pasadena and West Covina; 80 in San Gabriel and Burbank; 80 at LAX; 81 in downtown L.A, Van Nuys and Whittier; and 82 in Long Beach.

Sunny skies were also forecast in Orange County, along with highs of 67 in San Clemente; 72 in Laguna Beach; 73 in Newport Beach; 79 in Mission Viejo and Yorba Linda; and 80 in Anaheim, Irvine and Fullerton. In San Bernardino County, it will be 52 in Big Bear; 78 in San Bernardino; and 79 in Ontario and Redlands. In Riverside County, it will be 77 in Palm Desert and Indio; 78 in Riverside, Temecula and Palm Springs; and 79 in Lake Elsinore and Menifee.

Temperatures again will decline slightly Friday.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/2017/12/14/11-straight-red-flag-days-and-southern-california-fire-weather-isnt-over-yet/>

Strong winds arrive in the Inland region, elevating wildfire concerns

Beatriz E. Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun
Posted: December 14, 2017, 8:04 a.m.

Heavy winds rocked vehicles on Inland Empire freeways and tossed around trash cans and patio furniture Thursday morning, but more concerning than the mess is the wildfire potential.

The combination of strong winds, low relative humidity and the unseasonal warm weather can contribute to extreme fire behavior, according to the National Weather Service, prompting the organization to issue a red flag warning from Thursday until late Friday morning. Wind gusts of up to 65 mph are being forecast for the area south of the Cajon Pass, including Ontario and Fontana.

The morning winds also prompted the California Highway Patrol to issue a wind advisory for foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains.

Recent similar wind events led to several tractor trailers toppling over on Inland Empire freeways.

Strong winds helped several Southern California fires, including the massive Thomas fire still burning in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, grow quickly at the beginning of the month. Firefighters across the region will be on alert for this recent wind event.

This is the first of two Santa Ana wind events in the upcoming forecast; the region should get a break from the winds late Friday through Saturday, but another round is expected Sunday and early Monday, according to the weather service.

<http://www.sbsun.com/2017/12/14/strong-winds-arrive-in-the-inland-region-elevating-wildfire-concerns/>

Remember to Water Your Christmas Tree

Susan A. Neufeld
Posted: December 14, 2017, 5:03 a.m.

Mountain Communities – As decorations continue to be put up, we want to remind you to water your live Christmas tree. When a Christmas tree is cut, more than half its weight is water. With proper care you can maintain the quality of your tree. Below are a few safety tips and facts on how you can keep your tree alive longer.

- Watering is critical, A freshly-cut tree ca consume a gallon of water in 24 hours!
- Never let the water level go below the tree's base. Too little water causes resin to form over the cut end of the trunk. Once that happens, the tree stops absorbing water and dries out quickly.
- Indoors, keep the tree away from heating ducts or heat sources. Keeping the tree away from heating sources will keep the tree from drying. In fact, the lower the temperature the better the tree will do.
- Check the stand daily to make sure that the level of water does not go below the base of tree. With may stands, there can still be water in the stand even though the base of the tree is no longer submerged in water.

- Continue to monitor your tree for dryness. Run your fingers across needles to determine if they are dry and brittle. If the needles break easily or fall in your hand, the tree is dry. If the needles are soft and flexible the tree should remain fresh at least three to four weeks before drying to an unacceptable level.

Keeping your tree watered will keep your tree from drying. A dry tree can easily catch fire. U.S. Fire departments responded to an estimated average of 200 home structure fires per year that began with Christmas trees in the 2011 – 2015 season.

Stay safe and have a happy holiday season from the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

<http://rotwnews.com/2017/12/14/remember-to-water-your-christmas-tree/>

Crash injures 2, briefly closes Highway 38 in Angelus Oaks

Stephen Ramirez, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: December 13, 2017, 1:52 p.m.

Two people were injured in a crash that briefly shut down Highway 38 in Angelus Oaks on Wednesday afternoon, the San Bernardino County Fire Department said.

The crash, which involved a big-rig and a vehicle, occurred about 1 p.m., according to a California Highway Patrol incident log. A 20-foot “laminated piece” came off the big-rig and hit a car, according to the log.

San Bernardino County Fire spokesman Eric Sherwin said one injured victim was taken to a hospital immediately, and the second had minor injuries.

Both lanes of the 38 briefly closed, but one quickly reopened so traffic from both directions could use it in alternating periods. The roadway was fully clear about 2:30 p.m.

The CHP Arrowhead office is investigating the crash, Sherwin said.

<http://www.sbsun.com/2017/12/13/highway-38-in-angelus-oaks-closed-to-one-lane-due-to-big-rig-crash/>