



# NEWS



## News Headlines 01/21/2021

- Strong winds create hazardous driving conditions, bring fire danger and power shutoffs across SoCal
- Spectacular House Fire Lights Up the Sky in Yucca Valley Early This Morning

## Strong winds create hazardous driving conditions, bring fire danger and power shutoffs across SoCal

Rob McMillan, Marc Cota-Robles and Sid Garcia, ABC7 News

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**San Bernardino County Fire** Engineer, Eric Sherwin, warns ABC7 News “The tendency to start a ‘warming’ fire can result in destructive and truly out-of-control fires very quickly.” He encourages residents to report fires right away to give Firefighters the opportunity to knockdown fires before the wind takes control.

FONTANA, Calif. (KABC) -- Dangerous Santa Ana winds are whipping through the Southland, bringing increased fire danger and causing hazardous driving conditions as thousands are under the threat of having their power shut off.

Southern California on Tuesday will be hit with the trifecta of increased winds, low relative humidity and low moisture, prompting firefighters to be on alert.

A huge area is affected - from Santa Clarita to the high country, from the Los Angeles basin to the Santa Monica Mountains and all the way to the coast. In the highest elevations, gusts could reach up to 90 mph.

Those gusts posed a challenge for some drivers in Fontana Tuesday morning, where at least five big rigs flipped over near the 15 and 210 freeway interchange. Nobody was hurt, but several other drivers stopped on the side of the freeway to wait for the strong gusts to subside.

But perhaps even more concerning than driving a high-profile vehicle is the potential for fires.

"Right now, we are under the gun," said Roland Sprewell of the L.A. County Fire Department. "We have an unrelenting wildfire season that just doesn't seem to want to let go."

In response, local fire departments are staffing up. They're sending strike teams to places highest at risk. They're also restricting parking in very high-fire severity zones to ensure fire trucks will have a place to park if a fire breaks out.

Nearly 43,000 Southern California Edison customers were without power Tuesday afternoon in anticipation of the winds, and even more were bracing for possibility that theirs might be shut off.

As of noon Tuesday, about 5% of of SoCal Edison's 5 million customers were under consideration for power shutoffs within the next 48 hours:

Los Angeles County: 96,749 customers

Orange County: 11,421 customers

Riverside County: 7,407 customers

San Bernardino County: 30,53 customers

Ventura County: 124,755 customers

"Very strong and damaging winds are expected ... through Wednesday morning, and without rain in the last four weeks, forecasted high winds and high temperatures are bringing an elevated risk for wildfires," said Ron Gales with Southern California Edison.

In Anaheim, the strong winds prompted officials to close the mass COVID-19 vaccination site at Disneyland on Tuesday. Appointments for Tuesday will be rescheduled for another day, according to Anaheim city officials.

The shutoff of power is designed to reduce the risk of fires caused by electrical equipment when strong winds are forecast. Several large fires in California have been linked to electrical equipment.

SCE customers can sign up for alerts to let them know if the power will be shut off.

Some of the largest, most devastating wildfires in California history have been linked to electrical equipment.

<https://abc7.com/weather/strong-winds-topple-big-rigs-bring-possible-power-shutoffs-in-socal/9785984/>

## Spectacular House Fire Lights Up the Sky in Yucca Valley Early This Morning

Staff Writer, z1077fm.com

Posted: January 21, 2021



A house under construction in Yucca Valley is a total loss following a spectacular fire early this morning.

**County Fire** Battalion Chief Bob Evans said firefighters were called to the 57400 block of Buena Suerte in Yucca Valley at 4:33 a.m. where they found a 3,500- to 4,000-square-foot, three-story house on fire. The massive blaze and its accompanying plume of smoke was visible from as far away as Twentynine Palms.

Evans said firefighters learned there may have been someone inside the structure; they cleared two RVs on the site and were searching the home looking for bodies.

The cause is unknown at this time.

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