



## VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT WILDLAND FIRE AND AVIATION DIVISION



### WEATHER UPDATE 12/7/2017

## ...RED FLAG WARNING FOR MUCH OF LOS ANGELES AND VENTURA COUNTIES EXTENDED TO 2000 SATURDAY...

### Red Flag Warnings:

- Much of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties through Saturday

### Peak Wind Gusts:

- Damaging wind gusts between 50 and 70 mph for the wind-prone areas of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties tonight through Thursday
  - Isolated gusts 80 mph in the mountains
- Wind gusts 40-60 mph today and again Thursday night through Saturday

### Relative Humidity values:

- Single digits and teens with poor overnight recoveries

### Impacts:

- Potential for very rapid fire growth, long range spotting, extreme fire behavior
- Downed trees and power lines
- Blowing dust and power outage



The strongest and longest duration Santa Ana wind event we have seen so far this season will continue through at least Saturday. The strongest winds during this event will occur today, and again late tonight into Thursday. During these times, damaging wind gusts of 50 to 70 mph will be common across wind prone areas of Los Angeles and Ventura counties, with isolated gusts as high as 80 mph in the mountains. The Santa Ana winds combined with humidities in the teens and single digits, along with very dry fuels, will bring an extended period of critical fire weather conditions to much of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. If fire ignitions occur, there is a high likelihood of very rapid fire spread, long range spotting, and extreme fire behavior. Other potential impacts included downed trees and power lines, blowing dust and debris, and power outages, especially today and Thursday.

# HIGH WIND WARNING

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URGENT - WEATHER MESSAGE  
National Weather Service Los Angeles/Oxnard CA

## Ventura County Mountains-

...HIGH WIND WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 1600 FRIDAY...

## Santa Monica Mountains Recreational Area-

...HIGH WIND WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 1600 FRIDAY...

## Ventura County Interior Valleys-Ventura County Coastal Valleys-

...HIGH WIND WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT FROM 2200 WEDNESDAY TO 1600 FRIDAY...

DISCUSSION...An extended moderate to strong Santa Ana wind event will continue over much of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties through at least Saturday. The winds are expected to strengthen again tonight through Thursday with 18 to 24 hours of strong winds gusting to 50 to 80 mph. This is a significant period. The winds will then gradually weaken Friday through Sunday. Meanwhile, minimum humidities of 5 to 10 percent will be common through at least early next week, with widespread very poor overnight recoveries staying under 30 percent. As a result, critical Red Flag conditions will persist over most of Los Angeles and Ventura through Saturday, and possibly through Sunday in some or all of those locations. All other areas will remain in elevated fire weather conditions with locally breezy offshore flow and prolonged dry conditions. The Santa Barbara and possibly the San Luis Obispo Mountains and foothills will approach critical conditions tonight through early Friday as easterly winds strengthen.

There is a chance that offshore flow and near-critical conditions will continue through the middle of next week. No rain possibilities over the next 10 days.

### FIRE WEATHER PLANNING FORECAST

#### VENTURA COUNTY MOUNTAINS

...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT UNTIL 2000 SATURDAY FOR GUSTY WINDS AND LOW RELATIVE HUMIDITY...

#### THURSDAY...

Sky/weather.....Sunny & Smoky

Max temperature.....64-74° low elevations to 48-55° higher elevations

Min humidity.....6-12%

PROBABILITY OF IGNITION: Low Elevations **70-80%** Higher Elevations **70%**

20-foot winds.....

Valleys/lwr slopes...Northeast 25-40 mph G60 mph

Ridges/upr slopes...Northeast 30-45 mph G70 mph strongest eastern mountains

#### THURSDAY NIGHT...

Sky/weather.....Sunny & Smoky

Min temperature.....39-49° low elevations to 22-29° colder valleys and peaks

Max humidity..... 10-20% except 20-30% for the colder valleys

PROBABILITY OF IGNITION: Low Elevations **30-40%** Colder Valleys & Peaks **20-30%**

20-foot winds.....

Valleys/lwr slopes...Northeast 25-40 mph G60 mph in the evening  
decreasing to 20-35 mph with gusts to 50 mph

Ridges/upr slopes...Northeast 30-45 mph G75 mph in the evening  
decreasing 25-40 mph G65 mph (Strongest eastern mountains)

#### FRIDAY...

Sky/weather.....Sunny

Max temperature.....66-76° low elevations to 53-60° higher elevations

Min humidity.....5-10%

PROBABILITY OF IGNITION: Low Elevations **70-80%** Higher Elevations **70%**

20-foot winds.....

Valleys/lwr slopes...Northeast 20-30 mph G50 mph

Ridges/upr slopes...Northeast 20-35 mph G60 mph (Strongest eastern mountains)

**VENTURA COUNTY INTERIOR VALLEYS-VENTURA COUNTY COASTAL VALLEYS-  
...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT UNTIL 2000 SATURDAY FOR GUSTY WINDS  
AND LOW RELATIVE HUMIDITY...**

**THURSDAY...**

Sky/weather.....Sunny & Smoky  
Max temperature.....70-78°  
Min humidity.....5-10%  
PROBABILITY OF IGNITION: **70-80%**  
20-foot winds.....Northeast 25-40 mph G60 mph  
Isolated 35-45 mph G75 mph in the hills

**THURSDAY NIGHT...**

Sky/weather.....Mostly clear. Smoky  
Min temperature.....42-51° except 34-39° in the Ojai Valley  
Max humidity.....15-25%  
PROBABILITY OF IGNITION: **30-40% Ojai Valley 20-30%**  
20-foot winds.....Northeast 25-40 mph G60 mph in the evening  
diminishing to 20-30 mph G50 mph  
Isolated 25-45 mph with gusts to 60 mph in the hills

**FRIDAY...**

Sky/weather.....Sunny  
Max temperature.....72-80°  
Min humidity.....6-12%  
PROBABILITY OF IGNITION: **70-90%**  
20-foot winds.....Northeast 20-30 mph G45 mph  
Isolated 25-45 mph G55 mph in the hills

**VENTURA COUNTY COASTS**

**...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT UNTIL 2000 SATURDAY FOR GUSTY WINDS AND LOW  
RELATIVE HUMIDITY...**

**THURSDAY...**

Sky/weather.....Sunny & smoky  
Max temperature.....76-81°  
Min humidity.....5-10%  
PROBABILITY OF IGNITION: **70-90%**  
20-foot winds.....Northeast 20-35 mph G55 mph

**THURSDAY NIGHT...**

Sky/weather.....Mostly clear & smoky  
Min temperature.....44-53°  
Max humidity.....15-25%  
PROBABILITY OF IGNITION: **30-40%**  
20-foot winds.....Northeast 20-30 mph G45 mph

**FRIDAY...**

Sky/weather.....Sunny  
Max temperature.....70-79°  
Min humidity.....6-12%  
PROBABILITY OF IGNITION: **70-80%**  
20-foot winds.....Northeast 15-30 mph G40 mph

## **Fire Behavior**

**Critically dry fuel due to seasonal drought; long term drought effects; lack of recent rain; low relative humidity and long duration widespread wind will support very active to extreme fire behavior.**

With the forecasted critical weather expect the following, if an ignition were to occur:

Rapid rates of spread

Very high resistance to control

Long and short range spotting (Strong transport winds can carry embers over a mile)

Extended burn period due to poor overnight relative humidity recovery, and persistent winds.

Down trees and Power lines.

Probability of ignition provides an assessment of the fire environment based on observed or forecasted fire weather. Probability of ignition listed above is based on the minimum and maximum forecasted temperatures and relative humidity for that period and can be categorized:

**10-30% LOW** resistance to control, low probability of active fire behavior

**40-60% MODERATE** resistance to control, moderate probability of active fire behavior

**70-100% HIGH** resistance to control, high probability of active fire behavior

**Note: Probability of ignition does not account for wind. Wind will increase potential fire behavior at lower probability of ignition values.**

**Life Safety:** With the growing population of homeless that frequently make their homes in the brush do not rule out the possible life safety threat created by a wildfire. Due to the cold weather associated with this event, warming fires may be a source of ignition.