

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Red Flag Warning Declared for Southern California Hot, Dry, and Windy Conditions Predicted through Sunday

Riverside- Responding to the warning from California Fire Weather Forecasters, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) notifies the fire service and the public that a Red Flag Warning has been declared in Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego and Imperial Counties.

Hot, dry and windy conditions are expected to begin at 6 A.M. tomorrow (3-1-02) and continue through Sunday afternoon (3-3-02). Due to the lack of rain, grass, brush and trees in the wildlands are extremely dry. Santa Ana winds are expected with gusts between 60 to 80 mph.

By declaring a Red Flag Warning, the CDF will increase its own state of readiness and ask for extra vigilance from the public as well. CDF is activating the following additional responders: 29 handcrews, 52 engine companies, 5 bulldozers, 4 helicopters, 2 retardant dropping S-2T air tankers, 2 air tactical aircraft. Contingency plans are in place to bring additional resources in from Northern California.

The public is also being asked to cooperate with fire officials by being extra careful with fire. Use caution with off road vehicles and ensure spark arrestors on all motorized equipment. Residents are asked to be watchful for arsonists. Suspicious acts should be reported to the CDF Arson Hotline at 1-800-468-4408 or local law enforcement. **Additionally, burn permits are suspended** in all State Responsibility Area until further notice.

These extraordinary fire conditions remind us that we have potential for wildfire year round in many places in California. Homeowners must keep a defensible space around their structures and have an evacuation plan just in case. For more tips on living fire safe visit the CDF website at www.fire.ca.gov . Be Fire Safe California!

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