

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Today, Friday, July 14, 2006,
the Burning Index is 150 (Very High) and
it is not a Red Flag Alert day.**

Fire weather conditions within the City of Los Angeles have not reached the level necessary to issue a Red Flag Alert locally within the City. However, today's Fire Weather rating is "Very High" and includes a forecast for a high temperature of 100 degrees, Relative Humidity at 20% and Wind Speed of 10 miles per hour.

Additionally, Los Angeles Fire Department resources are pre-deployed today at the following locations:

1 Brush TF	CD 2 (Greuel)	Fire Station 77	9224 Sunland Blvd., Sun Valley
1 Brush TF	CD 2 (Greuel)	Fire Station 88	5101 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Sherman Oaks
1 Brush TF	CD 3 (Zine)	Fire Station 106	23004 Roscoe Blvd., West Hills

One Brush Patrol will be pre-deployed to each of the five Battalions in the San Fernando Valley. These resources will be used to proactively patrol an area that encompasses 232 square miles.

Resources may be pre-deployed by the Fire Department in the following configurations:

- Single Resources – Engines, Brush Patrol, and Water Tenders
Engine – Fire Apparatus (large) staffed with 4 members
Brush Patrol – Fire Apparatus (small) staffed with 2 members
Water Tender – Fire Apparatus carrying large supply of water with 2 members
- Brush Task Force (TF) – Three engine companies commanded by a Task Force Leader
Each Engine is a Fire Apparatus (large) staffed with 4 members
- Strike Team – Five engine companies under the command of a Battalion Chief
Each Engine is a Fire Apparatus (large) staffed with 4 members
The Strike Team Leader is a Battalion Command Team with 2 members
- Dozer Strike Team (ST) – Bulldozers used to create fire breaks and Strike Team Leader

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PRE-DEPLOYMENT OF FIRE RESOURCES ON HIGH HAZARD DAYS

How are decisions made by the Fire Department to pre-deploy resources on high hazard days? The Los Angeles Fire Department utilizes a Burning Index (BI) as the basis to determine the Department's commitment to pre-deploy resources.

A number of procedures occur daily to determine the actual BI.

- First, fuel moisture readings are taken at Fire Station 108 on Mulholland Drive and communicated to the Division 3 office located at Fire Station 88 in the San Fernando Valley.
- These fuel moisture readings are matched with predicted fire weather information (i.e. high/low temperatures, humidity, wind speed and direction) provided by a group of federal meteorologists that specialize in fire weather predictions at the Fire Weather Center (FWC), in Riverside California. This inter-agency group composed of California Department of Forestry (CDF), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) the Forest Service and the State of Office of Emergency Services (OES) provides the information to determine the LAFD Fire Rating and pre-deployment of resources.
- Division 3 also conducts real time weather surveys throughout the San Fernando Valley to determine existing weather conditions. In addition, the National Weather Service web site is also used to monitor fire weather conditions in and around the City of Los Angeles.
- The National Weather Service information may be different from the weather information provided by the Fire Weather Center. National Weather Service information may indicate a Red Flag Warning, where weather information from FWC will indicate a lesser rating i.e. Extreme or Very High rating.
- When the National Weather Service and FWC weather information do not match, the importance of real time weather surveys gain importance when considering pre-deployment of resources.
- Real time weather surveys and long-term weather predictions are considered to be a better predictor of weather conditions for the City of Los Angeles. However, this does not preclude the possibility of Red Flag Warning conditions in other areas of Los Angeles County.

The BI-levels stated as a numerical value are as follows:

BI	0 to 037	Low
BI	038 to 047	Moderate
BI	048 to 110	High
BI	111 to 161	Very High
BI	162 to 211	Extreme
BI	212 and above	Critical

Red Flag Alert days occur simply when the wind speed is 25 miles per hour or more and the relative humidity is 15% or less. A red flag warning means that critical fire weather conditions are either occurring now...or will shortly. History has proven that a combination of strong winds, low relative humidity and warm temperatures will create explosive fire growth potential.

On Extreme, Critical and Red Flag Alert days the Fire Department pre-deploys resources. The pre-deployment of resources into selected fire stations serving brush areas is proactive to address the increased brush fire potential. The specific stations/locations selected for pre-deployment are based on fire experience, area access, and fire potential.