



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- RED FLAG WARNING -

SANTA BARBARA, Ca. October 18, 2016 - The National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning for the Santa Barbara County Mountains and South Coast (zones CAZ252, CAZ239) in effect from 3pm today October 18, 2016 to 6am Wednesday October 19, 2016.

A Red Flag Warning means that critical fire weather conditions are either occurring now or will shortly. A combination of strong winds, low relative humidity, and warm temperatures can create extreme fire behavior.

...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT FROM 3 PM TUESDAY TO 6 AM PDT WEDNESDAY FOR GUSTY NORTH TO NORTHEAST WINDS AND LOW RELATIVE HUMIDITY FOR THE SANTA BARBARA SOUTH COAST AND MOUNTAINS...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN LOS ANGELES/OXNARD HAS ISSUED A RED FLAG WARNING FOR GUSTY NORTH TO NORTHEAST WINDS AND LOW RELATIVE HUMIDITY...WHICH IS IN EFFECT FROM 3 PM TUESDAY TO 6 AM PDT WEDNESDAY. THE FIRE WEATHER WATCH IS NO LONGER IN EFFECT.

- * WINDS...AREAS OF NORTH TO NORTHEAST WINDS WILL INCREASE TO 15 TO 30 MPH WITH GUSTS 35 TO 45 MPH BELOW AND THROUGH PASSES AND CANYONS. ISOLATED GUSTS UP TO 55 MPH POSSIBLE NEAR MONTECITO HILLS.
- * RELATIVE HUMIDITY...HUMIDITY WILL FALL TO BETWEEN 10 AND 20 PERCENT...EXCEPT SINGLE DIGIT HUMIDITIES POSSIBLE IN THE MOUNTAINS.
- * TEMPERATURES...DAYTIME TEMPERATURES WILL RISE INTO THE LOWER TO MID 80S ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING.
- * IMPACTS...THE COMBINATION OF GUSTY NORTH TO NORTHEAST WINDS...VERY LOW HUMIDITY...AND WARM TEMPERATURES WILL CREATE CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER CONDITIONS ACROSS THE WARNED AREA. THIS IN COMBINATION WITH THE VERY DRY FUELS COULD CAUSE RAPID FIRE SPREAD ALONG WITH EXTREME FIRE DANGER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

PLEASE USE EXTREME CAUTION WHEN USING POTENTIAL FIRE IGNITION SOURCES.

Wind Advisory

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SOUTH COAST-SANTA BARBARA COUNTY MOUNTAINS-
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...SANTA BARBARA...MONTECITO...
CARPINTERIA...SAN MARCOS PASS...SAN RAFAEL WILDERNESS AREA...
DICK SMITH WILDERNESS AREA
851 AM PDT TUE OCT 18 2016

...WIND ADVISORY REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 3 AM PDT WEDNESDAY...

* WINDS AND TIMING...NORTH TO NORTHEAST WINDS 15 TO 30 MPH WITH
GUSTS TO BETWEEN 40 AND 50 MPH WILL CONTINUE THROUGH EARLY
THIS MORNING. STRONGEST AROUND THE HILLS OF MONTECITO. WINDS
WILL DIMINISH SOME THIS MORNING THEN INCREASE ONCE AGAIN BUT A
BIT STRONGER WITH NORTHWEST TO NORTH WINDS 20 TO 35 MPH WITH
GUSTS BETWEEN 40 AND 55 MPH. WINDS WILL THEN SHIFT TO THE
NORTH TO NORTHEAST OVERNIGHT.

* IMPACTS...MAJOR ROADWAYS THAT COULD BE AFFECTED INCLUDE
HIGHWAYS 101...154...AND 192...ESPECIALLY NEAR GAVIOTA...SAN
MARCOS PASS...AND BELOW THE HILLS OF MONTECITO.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

WHEN DRIVING...USE EXTRA CAUTION. BE PREPARED FOR SUDDEN GUSTY
CROSS WINDS.

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