



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- RED FLAG WARNING/FIRE WEATHER WATCH -

SANTA BARBARA, Ca. June 23, 2016 – The National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning for the mountains of Santa Barbara County (zone CAZ252) effective from 6 pm Thursday night to 6 am Saturday. In addition, a Fire Weather Watch remains in effect for the Santa Barbara South Coast during this same time period due to the potential for critical fire weather conditions.

Red Flag Warning/Fire Weather Watch Duration: Tonight June 23 through 6 am Saturday June 25, 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.

A Fire Weather Watch is typically issued generally 12 to 72 hours in advance of potential critical fire weather conditions.

Winds are predicted to be from the North 20 to 30 mph with gusts up to 50 mph. Strongest winds will occur during the evening and overnight hours along the Santa Ynez range. Relative humidity as low as 8 to 15 percent.

If fire ignition occurs, conditions will be favorable for extreme fire behavior and rapid fire spread, which could threaten life and property.

As a result of the issuance of the Red Flag Warning, citizens should take appropriate precautions. These precautions include, but are not limited to the following:

- Report any sign of smoke immediately to your local fire department by calling 911 (if your call 911 from your cell phone, you must know your location).
- Use extreme caution when operating spark or flame producing machinery in hazardous grass or brush areas.
- Have an evacuation plan in place and identify two exit routes from your neighborhood. If you are asked to evacuate by fire or law enforcement officials, do so immediately.
- Report any suspicious persons or vehicles to law enforcement.

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