



## Southern California Wildfires - Update 12/11/17

Risk Services Division

11 December 2017

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**Southern California Wildfires**  
**December 11, 2017 - 5PM ET**

- As of December 11, almost 9,000 firefighters are battling wildfires that have burned nearly 257,000 acres and evacuated thousands.
- 25,000 homes are threatened and more than 1,000 structures have been destroyed.
- Southern California Edison said that outages and surges had left up to 85,000 customers without electricity.
- Regulators are warning people in parts of Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles counties to stay indoors, avoid vigorous outdoor activities and not do anything to stir up ash.
- The Thomas fire is 15 percent contained, up from 10 percent Sunday night.
- 1 fatality and 5 injuries have been reported to date.

**Forecast**

A red flag warning is in effect for much of Los Angeles and Ventura counties through at least this evening for gusty northeast winds and low relative humidity. Little change is expected through Thursday. Expect daily peak gusts in the 20 to 40 mph range. The humidities will remain very dry with poor overnight recoveries, similar to last week.

**Active Fires**

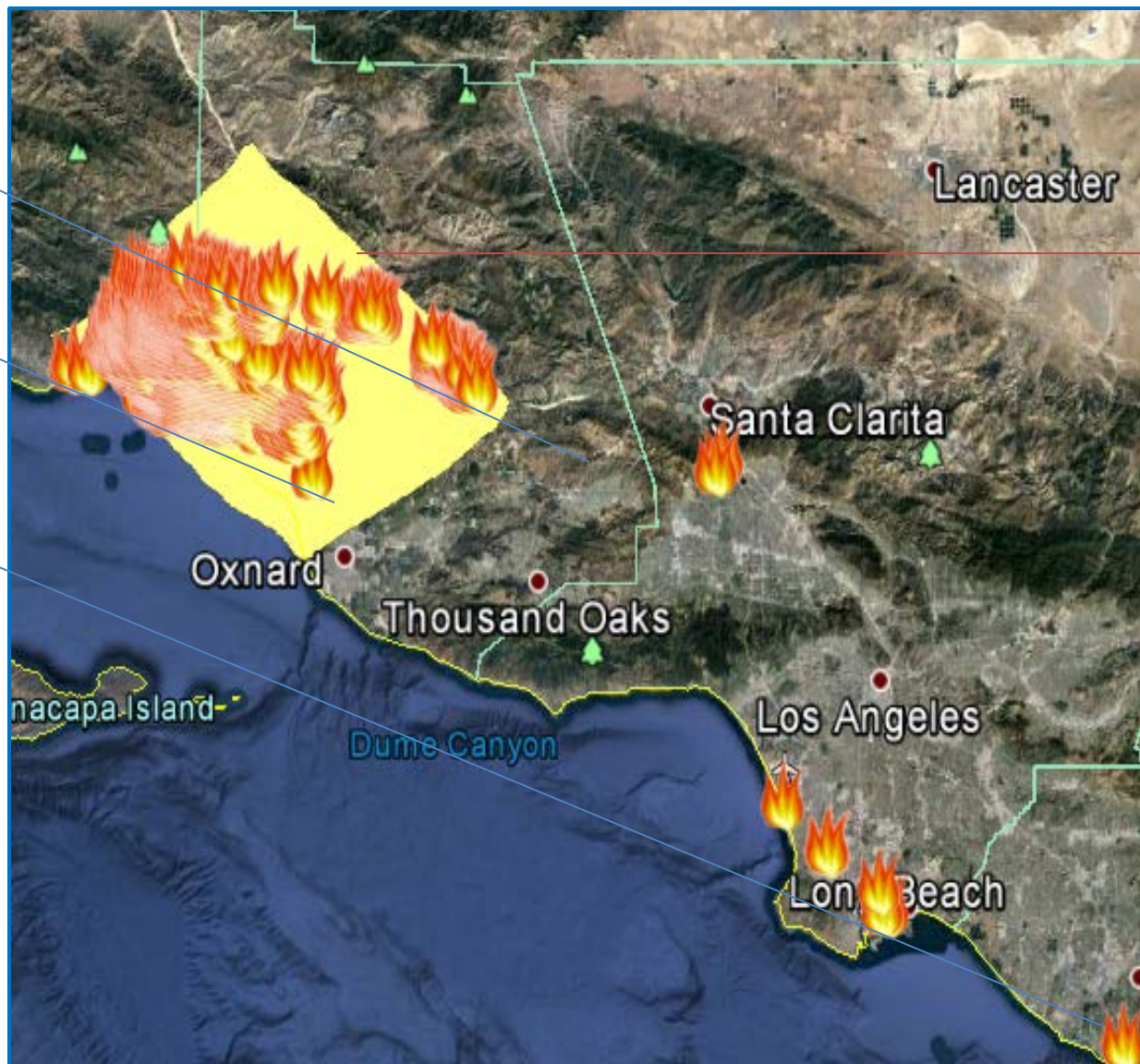
Fire Name (County)	Acres Burned	Percent Contained	Evacuations	Structures			Fatalities/Injuries
				Threatened	Damaged	Destroyed	
<b>California</b>							
Thomas (Ventura County)	230,000 (+57k)	15% (+5)	Mandatory 93,243 (+6.2k)	18,000 (+5k)	166 Homes 20 Other	644 Homes 114 Other	1 / 0
Lilac (San Diego)	422	85% (+10)	Mandatory 50 (-10k)	15 (-15)	12 Homes	6 Homes	0 / 3
Skirball (LA County)	4,100	75% (+15)	Lifted	1,500	49 Homes 12 Other	109 Homes 43 Other	0 / 2

Status and Growth of Fires as of December 11

**Skirball**  
▪ Start: 12/6/17  
▪ Containment: 75%  
▪ Acres Burned: 4,100

**Thomas**  
▪ Start: 12/4/17  
▪ Containment: 15%  
▪ Acres Burned: 230,000

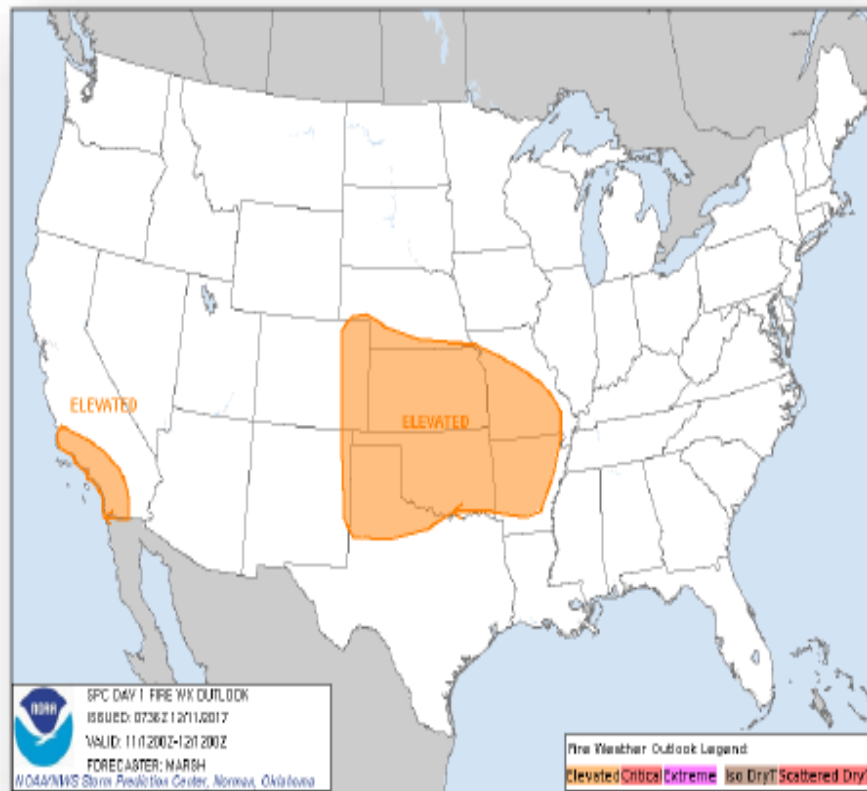
**Lilac**  
▪ Start: 12/4/17  
▪ Containment: 85%  
▪ Acres Burned: 422



Fire Direction

### Fire Weather Outlook

- Monitoring continues for the Thomas fire which has burned over 230k acres and expanded to Santa Barbara County.



*Today*



*Tomorrow*

## **Advice – Consumer Awareness and Scams**

State and federal recovery officials urge California residents to watch for and report any suspicious activity or potential fraud from scam artists, identity thieves and other criminals who may try to prey on vulnerable survivors of the wildfires.

### **Phony Charities**

The Attorney General regulates charities and the professional fundraisers who solicit on their behalf. The purpose of this oversight is to protect charitable assets for their intended use and ensure that the charitable donations contributed by Californians are not misapplied and squandered through fraud or other means. **To view the information the Attorney General has on a specific charity**, please visit <https://oag.ca.gov/charities>.

### **Price Gouging**

California's anti-price gouging statute, Penal Code Section 396, prohibits raising the price of many consumer goods and services by more than 10% after an emergency has been declared. Local laws may also contain their own prohibitions on price gouging. **To view the FAQs on price gouging**, visit <https://oag.ca.gov/consumers/pricegougingduringdisasters>.

### **Complaints Against Contractors**

The Contractors State License Board (CSLB) verifies contractor licenses, investigates complaints, and provides helpful information about hiring a licensed contractor. For information on hiring or filing a complaint regarding a contractor, disaster victims may call CSLB's Disaster Hotline M-F from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. at 1-800-962-1125, or the 24-hour automated telephone response system, 1-800-321-CSLB (2752). **Licenses can also be checked online** at <https://www2.cslb.ca.gov/onlineservices/checklicense/checklicense.aspx>.

### **Fake Offers of State or Federal Aid**

- Beware of anyone claiming to be from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or the state visits, calls or emails asking for an applicant's Social Security number, bank account number or other sensitive information.
- Avoid scam artists who promise a disaster grant and ask for cash deposits or advance payments in full.
- Know that federal workers do not solicit or accept money. FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) staff never charge applicants for disaster assistance, inspections or help in filling out applications. Do not give out information and report people claiming to be government workers to local police.
- Provide your Social Security number and banking information only when registering for FEMA assistance, either by calling 800-621-3362, TTY 800-462-7585, or going online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or the smart phone FEMA App. If you use 711-Relay or Video Relay Services, call 800-621-3362. Operators are multilingual and calls are answered from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.

### **Phony Housing Inspectors**

Owners/applicants may be especially vulnerable to phony housing inspectors claiming to represent FEMA or SBA. An applicant should always:

- Ask to see the inspector's identification badge. All federal employees and contractors carry official, laminated photo identification.
- Inspectors also have each applicant's nine-digit registration number.
- FEMA inspectors never require banking information.

It is important to note that FEMA housing inspectors verify damage, but do not hire or endorse specific contractors to fix homes or recommend repairs. They do not determine your eligibility for assistance.

**For Additional Information:**

U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

<https://www.fema.gov/>

U.S. FEMA – Mobile App

<https://www.fema.gov/mobile-app>

Ready Gov

<https://www.ready.gov/wildfires>

National Weather Service – Fire Weather

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ridge2/fire/>

California Gov - Alerts

<http://ca.gov/#alertsection>

American Red Cross – Active Wildfire Map

<http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/wildfire>