



Southern California Wildfires – Update 12/8/17

Risk Services Division

8 December 2017

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Southern California Wildfires
December 8, 2017 - 12PM ET

- President Trump on Friday declared an emergency in California and ordered additional federal aid.
- His declaration allows federal agencies to coordinate the relief efforts.
- A fire near Murrieta, in Riverside County, east of Los Angeles, has burned about 300 acres.
- Seven buildings were destroyed, officials said, and the fire was 60 percent contained.
- Some residents who were forced to evacuate their homes because of the fires in the San Fernando Valley and in Bel-Air were told they could return on Thursday night.
- Eric M. Garcetti, the mayor of Los Angeles, said late Thursday that he was not aware of any deaths connected to the Los Angeles fires.

Forecast

Winds should taper off on Saturday before strengthening once again Saturday night into Sunday. Critical to extreme fire weather conditions expected to persist into the weekend.

Active Fires

Fire Name (County)	Acres Burned	Percent Contained	Evacuations	Structures			Fatalities/Injuries
				Threatened	Damaged	Destroyed	
California							
Thomas (Ventura County)	115,000 (+19,000)	5%	Mandatory (87k)	15,000 homes	81 homes	401 homes 38 other	0 / 0
Creek (San Fernando/LA County)	12,605	10% (+5)	Mandatory (99k)	2,500 homes	8 homes 7 other	5 homes 10 other	0 / 2
Rye (LA County)	7,000	25% (+15)	Mandatory (2k)	5,460 (5,090 homes)	0	1 home	0 / 1
Skirball (LA County)	475	19% (+9)	Mandatory (2k)	1,000 homes	11 homes	4 homes	0 / 1

Status and Growth of Fires as of December 8

Creek
▪ Start: 12/5/17
▪ Containment: 10%
▪ Acres Burned: 12,605

Rye
▪ Start: 12/5/17
▪ Containment: 25%
▪ Acres Burned: 7,000

Skirball
▪ Start: 12/6/17
▪ Containment: 19%
▪ Acres Burned: 475

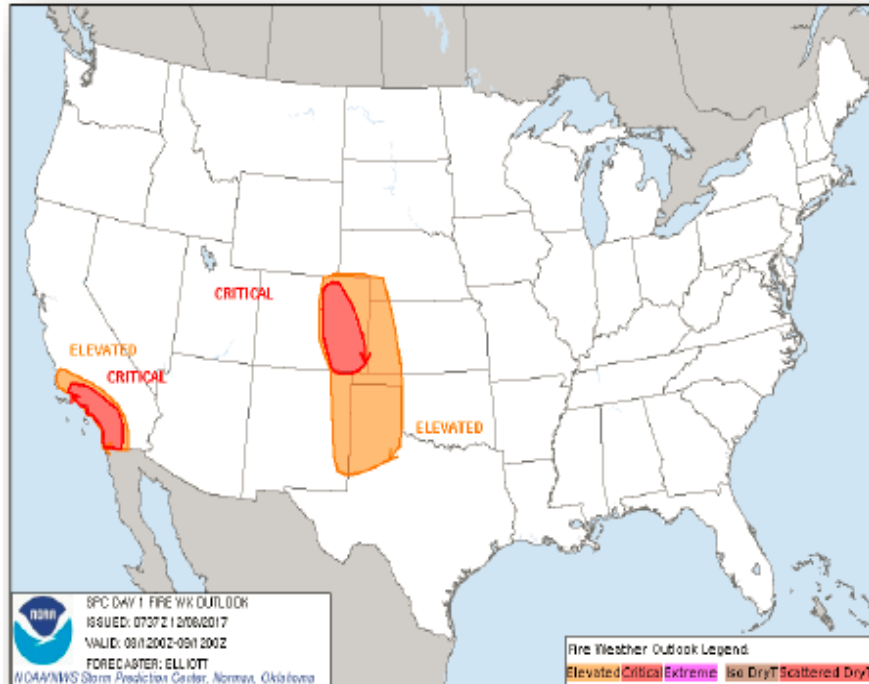
Thomas
▪ Start: 12/4/17
▪ Containment: 5%
▪ Acres Burned: 115,000



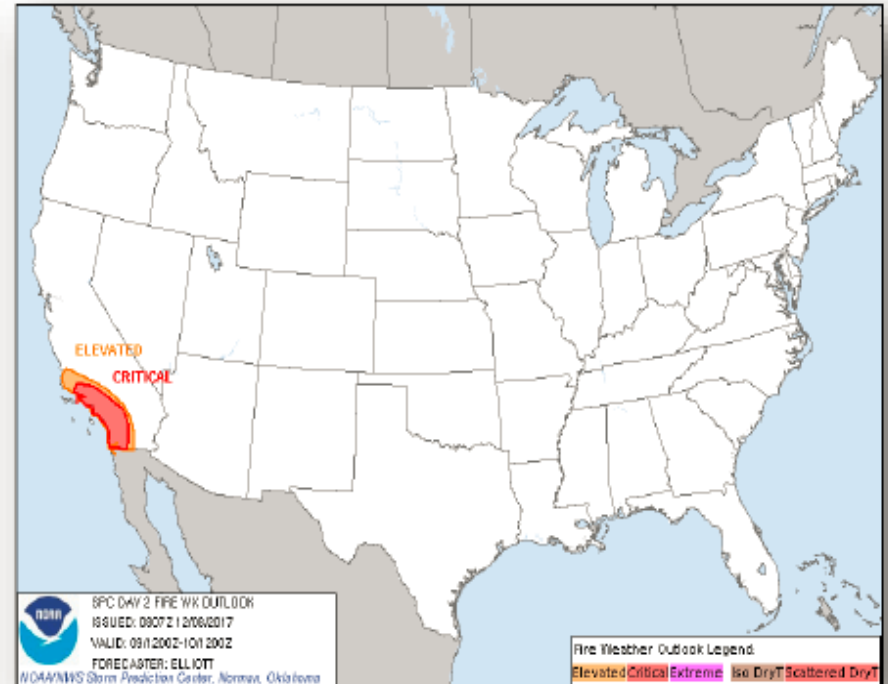
Fire Direction

Fire Weather Outlook

- Any fires that develop will likely spread rapidly.
- Shifting winds may push ongoing fires in new directions.



Today



Tomorrow

Air Quality Health Advice:

Forest fire smoke is a complex and dynamic mixture of gases and very small particles that can irritate the respiratory system and cause systemic inflammation. This will be an ongoing concern as air quality in affected areas may be variable for days or weeks.

Advice to minimize health effects:

- If you have a chronic condition, have rescue medication on hand at all times and a plan to follow if your rescue medication cannot bring your condition under control.
- Look for indoor environments that might be less smoky, such as shopping malls, community centres and libraries.
- Avoid physical exertion because the amount of smoke you breathe increases as your breathing rate increases.
- Keep hydrated as it helps your body deal with inflammation.

Advice – Hazardous Debris

As changing weather patterns and the work of firefighters boost containment lines, communities devastated by the fires face potential health risks associated with the improper handling of fire debris.

Here are some helpful tips to reduce risks:

- Avoid any activity that disturbs the debris or kicks ash and associated chemicals into the air.
- Those working directly with wildfire debris are advised to wear gloves, long shirts and pants, and other clothing to help prevent skin-to-skin contact.
- It's best to change shoes and clothing once off-site to avoid contaminating other areas.
- Masks certified by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health are also recommended when exposure to wildfire dust or ash can't be avoided.
- CalEPA recommends NIOSH-certified air-purifying respirator masks, which can be found at most hardware stores.
- A mask rated N-95 is much more effective than simpler dust or surgical masks in blocking particles from ash.
- Although smaller sized masks may appear to fit a child's face, none of the manufacturers recommend their use for children.
- If children are in an area that warrants wearing a mask, they should be moved to an environment with cleaner air.

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>