

Southern California Wildfires: Dec. 6, 2017

Firefighters Make Progress on San Bernardino Blaze Ahead of Rising Winds

A fire burning near San Bernardino, Calif., was 50 percent contained as of Wednesday morning and firefighters were hoping to get a better handle on the [100-acre fire](#) before the Santa Ana [winds pick up again](#) in the evening, officials said.

According to National Weather Service officials, 25- to 35-mph wind gusts are forecast to return to the area, and wind-prone places like the nearby Cajon Pass could get isolated gusts of 65 to 90 mph.

There were still active areas in the Little Mountain fire near San Bernardino on Wednesday morning, said Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the fire department; however, the dark smoke visible most of Tuesday is gone.

After several white-knuckle moments of flames nearing homes on Tuesday, firefighters managed to push back the fire Tuesday evening and overnight.

The latest numbers show that the Little Mountain fire scorched 100 acres near University Parkway and Varsity Avenue.

The fire was reported at 12:28 p.m. and quickly grew due to the strong winds, San Bernardino County fire officials said.

Firefighters were able to get into areas that had previously been too hot to enter and use hoses and bulldozers to try to get the flames contained, officials said.

Crews continued to improve the fire lines on Wednesday, officials said, and expected to remain on scene at least until Thursday morning.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2017/12/06/us/ventura-fire-southern-california/index.html>

To Get Help

California

- United Way 2-1-1: Dial 2-1-1 or visit <http://www.211california.org/>
- American Red Cross: 916.993.7070; <http://www.redcross.org/local/gold-country>
- Office of Emergency Management: 916.657.9494; <http://www.caloes.ca.gov/home>

Road Conditions

Call 511: The Department of Transportation offers its free 511 service for travel information and roadway conditions, including road and bridge closures, toll suspensions and major evacuation routes.

California

- [Department of Transportation](#)
- [PATH: Partners for Advanced Transit and Highways](#)
- [Division of Traffic Operations](#)
- [Division of Rail and Mass Transportation Program](#)

Contact us anytime for confidential assistance.

Power Outage

To report an outage, call:

California

- PG&E: 800.743.5002

Airport Closures

Passengers are urged to not come to the local airport unless your flight has been confirmed. If your flight has been canceled, please call your airline's customer service telephone number or rebook through your airline's website.

Flight delay information: <http://www.flightstats.com/go/Home/home.do>

San Bernardino County Fire Dept. Announcement

Ready! Set! Go! – Fire

Wildfire Prevention

San Bernardino County is one of the most beautiful places to live, but for those living in what are called “urban interface areas,” it does not come without risks. Fire is, and always has been, a natural part of this landscape. Wildfires are now a year-round reality in San Bernardino County. This means that both firefighters and residents have to be on heightened alert for the threat of wildfire.

Firefighters train hard and make countless preparations to be ready for a wildfire. Residents need to do the same. Successfully preparing for a wildfire requires you to take personal responsibility for protecting yourself, your family, and your property.

We have published this Ready, Set, Go! Personal Wildfire Action Plan to give you the tips and tools to successfully prepare for a wildfire. It will give you guidance on retrofitting your home with fire-resistive features. It will help you create the necessary defensible space around your home. This publication will help you prepare your home, yourself, and your family so that you can leave early, well ahead of a fast-approaching wildfire.

It's not a question of if, but when, the next wildfire will occur. With advance planning and preparation, you can dramatically increase your safety and the survivability of your property.

Residential Assessment Program (RAP)

In an effort to increase public knowledge regarding wildland urban interface fire safety and preparedness, the San Bernardino County Fire Department is conducting engine company based property and structural assessments in those areas identified with an increased risk for wildfire. This public outreach program is called the Residential Assessment Program. It is the goal of the RAP to provide citizens of San Bernardino County residing in the wildland urban interface areas with the most current information and the best methods available in an effort to protect homes and property from destructive wildfires.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact 909.386.8400 or email countyfirerap@sbcfire.org.

- [RAP Flyer](#)
- [Facts](#)
- [Q&A](#)
- [Recognizing Suspicious Activity as it Relates to Wildfires](#)

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'Ready SB' App

Being prepared for a wildfire or other fire disaster starts with making a plan. That's why the San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services created the 'Ready SB' app. [Download the Ready SB app](#) today and it will guide you step-by-step in creating your customized family disaster plan.

During a disaster, use Ready SB to receive emergency alerts, evacuation and shelter information, live up-to-date traffic reports, contact information of nearby resources, and everything you need to know to stay safe before, during, and after a disaster.

Source: <http://www.sbcfire.org/Programs/ReadySetGoFire.aspx>

Wildfires

Know your risk

Wildfires can occur anywhere and can destroy homes, businesses, infrastructure, natural resources and agriculture. For more information, download the How to Prepare for a Wildfire guide (link below), which provides the basics of wildfires, explains how to protect yourself and your property, and details the steps to take now so that you can act quickly when you, your home or your business is in danger.

What

A wildfire is an unplanned, unwanted fire burning in a natural area, such as a forest, grassland, or prairie. As building development expands into these areas, homes and businesses may be situated in or near areas susceptible to wildfires. This is called the wildland urban interface.

Wildfires can cause death or injury to people and animals, damage or destroy structures and disrupt community services including transportation, gas, power, communications and other services. The impact may cover large areas, with extensive burning, embers traveling more than a mile away from the wildfire itself and smoke causing health issues for people far away from the fire. Wildfires damage watersheds, leaving areas prone to flooding and mudslides for many years.

Where

Wildfires can occur anywhere in the country. They can start in remote wilderness areas, in national parks or even in your back yard. Wildfires can start from natural causes, such as lightning, but most are caused by humans, either accidentally—from cigarettes, campfires or outdoor burning—or intentionally.

When

Wildfires can occur at any time throughout the year, but the potential is always higher during periods with little or no rainfall, when brush, grass and trees are dry and burn more easily. High winds can also contribute to spreading the fire. Your community may have a designated wildfire season when the risk is particularly high.

Fire weather watch

Fire weather watch: Dangerous fire weather conditions are possible over the next 12 to 72 hours

Steps to Take

- Turn on your TV or radio. You'll get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Know where to go. If you are ordered to evacuate, know the route to take and have plan of where you will go. Check-in with your friends and family.
- Keep your car fueled, in good condition and stocked with emergency supplies and a change of clothes.

Before wildfire season

Make a Wildfire plan

- Know your [wildfire risk](#).
- Familiarize yourself with local emergency plans. Know where to go and how to get there should you need to evacuate.

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- Make a wildfire [emergency plan](#), including an evacuation plan and a communication plan.
- Many communities have text or email alerting systems for emergency notifications. To find out what alerts are available in your area, search the Internet with your town, city or county name and the word “alerts.”
- Build or restock your [emergency preparedness kit](#), including a flashlight, batteries, cash and first aid supplies.
- Stay tuned to your phone [alerts](#), TV or radio for weather updates, emergency instructions or evacuation orders.

Prepare Your Home

- Create and maintain a buffer extending about 30 feet from your home that is free of anything that will burn, such as wood piles, dried leaves, newspapers, brush or other landscaping. From 30 feet to 100 feet reduce or replace as much of the most flammable vegetation as possible and prune vegetation, create “fuel breaks,” such as driveways, gravel walkways and lawns. Work with neighbors to create spaces of up to 200 feet around your homes where vegetation is thinned to remove underbrush and tall trees do not touch each other for continuous canopies.
- Regularly clean the roof and gutters.
- Connect garden hoses long enough to reach any area of the home and fill garbage cans, tubs or other large containers with water.
- Review your homeowner’s insurance policy and also prepare or update a list of your home’s contents.

During a wildfire

- If there is a wildfire in the area, be ready to evacuate on short notice.
- If you see a wildfire and haven’t received evacuation orders yet, call 9-1-1. Don’t assume that someone else has already called.
- If ordered to evacuate during a wildfire, do it immediately—make sure and tell someone where you are going and when you have arrived.
- If you or someone you are with has been burned, call 9-1-1 or seek help immediately; cool and cover burns to reduce chance of further injury or infection.

After a wildfire

Returning Home

- Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- For several hours after the fire, maintain a “fire watch.” Check and recheck for smoke, sparks or hidden embers throughout the house, including the roof and the attic.
- Use caution when entering burned areas as hazards may still exist, including hot spots, which can flare up without warning. Evacuate immediately if you smell smoke.

Cleaning Your Home

- Wear a NIOSH-certified respirator (dust mask) and wet debris down to minimize breathing dust particles.
- Discard any food that has been exposed to heat, smoke or soot.
- Do not use water that you think may be contaminated to wash dishes, brush teeth, prepare food, wash hands or to make ice or baby formula.
- Photograph damage to your property for insurance purposes.

Resources

- [Wildfire Safety Social Media Toolkit](#) (link)
- [Cloud of Smoke](#) (video)
- [When the fire starts](#) (video)
- [United States Fire Administration](#) (link)
- [Smokey Bear](#) (link)
- [United States Forest Service](#) (link)
- [American Red Cross](#) (link)
- [Wildfire Banners and Web Badges](#) (link)
- [NFPA’s Firewise Communities Program](#) (link)
- [Fire Adapted Community](#) (link)
- [How to Prepare for a Wildfire](#) (PDF)
- [Wildfire Playbook](#) (PDF)

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

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