



U.S. Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
Angeles National Forest
San Gabriel Mountains
National Monument
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News Release

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Fire officials raise fire danger level to “Very High”

ARCADIA, Calif. — Effective Friday, June 29, 2018 the Fire Danger Level will be raised to “Very High” across the Angeles National Forest. With annual grasses cured, temperatures rising, relative humidity dropping and fire activity across the state increasing, fire management officials have decided to raise the fire danger level.

Elevating the fire danger enhances public awareness that wildfire probability increases as temperatures rise and brush dries out. Despite the change, there are no new campfire restrictions. Open wood and charcoal fires will still be permitted in approved “developed” campgrounds and picnic areas where a steel ring or stoves are provided. Propane or jellied gas stoves and grills are permitted in non-developed areas with a valid California Campfire Permit. Smoking is allowed in enclosed vehicles or developed recreation sites only. Drivers in the forest should stay on designated roads and never park on dry brush or grass, to avoid the risk of starting a fire. Human-caused wildfires account for 94 percent of all wildfires on the Angeles National Forest, which damage natural resources and threaten lives and property.

This Fourth of July holiday get outdoors and enjoy your National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains Monument while being fire safe. Remember **all fireworks are prohibited on all national forest system lands**. The possession or use of fireworks, including the “safe and sane” variety, is prohibited at all times in the Angeles under federal law. Forest fire patrols during the Fourth of July week will strictly enforce the “no fireworks” policy. A violation of the law can result in a \$5,000 fine and/or six months in jail. Also, anyone causing a wildfire is liable for all costs of suppressing the fire.

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The mission of the U.S. Forest Service, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.