

NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER WIND EVENT UPDATE
Thursday, December 1, 2011 – 1800

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH DECLARES A STATE OF EMERGENCY:

To ensure that state and federal financial resources are available to serve County residents impacted by the windstorms, County Mayor Michael D. Antonovich has declared a state of emergency in Los Angeles County.

The windstorms that began last evening have resulted in widespread damage with the heaviest in the San Gabriel Valley. The cities of Pasadena, Sierra Madre and Monrovia have declared local emergencies. Windstorms have caused downed power lines, fallen trees, outages and extensive damage to private property.

CITIES WHO HAVE DECLARED A LOCAL EMERGENCY:

- Alhambra
- Arcadia
- Glendora
- La Canada Flintridge
- Monrovia
- Pasadena
- San Marino
- South Pasadena
- Sierra Madre
- Temple City

POWER OUTAGES REPORTED BY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON:

Southern California Edison (SCE) is asking customers without power in the San Gabriel Valley who have downed lines between their homes and power poles to call 9-1-1 and stay inside to remain safe until SCE crews can repair the lines.

High winds have knocked down thousands of trees and strewn debris across wide areas, limiting and, in some cases, preventing access to equipment. Hundreds of personnel with SCE have assessed damages throughout its 50,000-square mile service territory. Crews are working to restore service as safely and quickly as possible in areas where they have access.

As of 3:30 p.m., Southern California Edison reports that more than 215,000 customers are without service.

- Alhambra
- Altadena
- Arcadia

- Baldwin Park
- Compton
- Covina
- Culver City
- El Monte
- El Segundo
- Irwindale
- La Canada Flintridge
- La Crescenta
- Long Beach
- Monrovia
- Montebello
- Pasadena
- Ridgecrest
- San Gabriel
- Sierra Madre
- San Marino
- Santa Monica
- Temple City
- Torrance
- Whittier

To report any power outages, call Southern California Edison at 1-800-611-1911.

Southern California Edison Safety Reminders:

- If you see a downed line or dangling wire – even if it appears not to be live – don't touch or approach it and call 9-1-1 immediately.
- If you know someone who is dependent on electrically operated medical equipment, make backup power arrangements in case a power outage affects that equipment.
- Watch for traffic signals that may be out. Approach those intersections as four-way stops.
- Make sure you have a battery-operated radio and flashlights. Check the batteries to make sure they are fresh. Use flashlights for lighting during a power outage; do not use candles because they pose a significant fire hazard.
- Do not use equipment indoors that is designed for outdoor cooking. Such equipment can emit carbon monoxide and other toxic gases.
- Leave the doors of your refrigerator and freezer closed to keep your food as fresh as possible. An unopened refrigerator can keep foods cold enough for a

couple of hours. A half full freezer will stay cold for up to 24 hours and a full freezer for 48 hours. If you must eat food that was refrigerated or frozen, check it carefully for signs of spoilage.

- Check on your neighbors to make sure everyone is safe.
- If you use a generator, place it outdoors and plug individual appliances directly into the generator, using a heavy-duty extension cord. Connecting generators directly to household circuits creates “backfeed,” which is dangerous to repair crews.

PUBLIC HEALTH MESSAGES:

The recent wind storms throughout Southern California have caused several issues such as power outages, loss of heating capabilities and refrigeration, and air quality concerns. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health would like to remind residents to take precautions against carbon monoxide poisoning, food borne illness and other health concerns.

Air Quality:

Strong winds have churned up dust and other debris in the air. People with heart disease, asthma or other respiratory conditions should minimize outdoor activities. Schools that have students with sensitive conditions, including heart disease, asthma and other chronic respiratory diseases, should not participate in PE or outdoor physical activity and should stay indoors as much as possible. Residents who are concerned about their respiratory condition should contact their doctor or health care provider for more specific recommendations.

Cold Weather:

“We want to remind people not to use stoves, barbeques or ovens to heat their homes due to the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning,” said Jonathan E. Fielding, MD, MPH, Director of Public Health and Health Officer. “There are places where people can go to stay warm, such as shelters or other public facilities. Children and the elderly are especially vulnerable during cold snaps and precautions should be taken to ensure they don’t get too cold when they are outside.”

Take precautions to protect yourself from the cold:

- Dress in layers of warm clothing if you plan to be outdoors.
- Protect extremities from the cold by wearing a hat, scarf, gloves, and socks.
- Offer to help those in your neighborhood with limited access to heat, such as seniors or those who are ill. Check on them frequently.

- If you use an outdoor generator, place it as far away from the home as possible.
- Stoves, barbeques and ovens can produce a deadly gas known as carbon monoxide when used to heat a home. Never use these appliances in place of approved heaters such as electric, natural gas, or fireplaces.

Install a carbon monoxide detector in your home to reduce the risk of poisoning.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include shortness of breath, headaches, muscle and joint pain, and nausea. Exposure to high levels of carbon monoxide could lead to death within minutes. Those suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning should be taken outside, into fresh air, immediately, and should be taken to an emergency room for immediate medical treatment.

A Winter Shelter Program is available for seniors and those looking for a place to stay warm. Locations and transportation information can be found on the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's website at: http://www.lahsa.org/year_round_shelter.asp, or by calling the LA County Information line at 2-1-1 from any landline or cell phone. For the deaf and hearing disabled, call the TDD line at 1-800-660-4026.

Food Safety:

Following a power outage, steps should be taken to determine which food from the refrigerator or freezer is safe to keep or must be discarded.

Follow these recommendations to avoid foodborne illness.

- Generally, food in the refrigerator is safe as long as the power outage is short. Food can be held in the fridge for a few hours if, while the power is out, the doors to the fridge and freezer are kept closed to maintain coldest possible temperatures.
- If a power outage lasts several hours, it is best to throw away perishable food items such as meat, dairy products and eggs.
- Items that have defrosted in the freezer should be thrown away. Do not re-freeze thawed food.
- All other food items should be inspected to ensure safety. If in doubt, throw it out.

Other Safe Clean-Up Tips:

- Residents should wear sturdy shoes and gloves for protection while cleaning or handling debris. Face masks are not necessary. If a job appears too big, hire a professional service.

- Avoid downed power lines.
- Damage to county facilities and roadways, and sanitation issues, such as a break in a sewer line, should be reported to the LA County Department of Public Works at (800) 675-HELP (675-4357) or by visiting their website at <http://www.dpw.lacounty.gov>.

SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR FRI., DEC. 2, 2011:

The Los Angeles County Office of Education is continuing to survey public school districts to determine campus closures for Fri., Dec. 2 due to wind-related conditions and events that have mostly impacted the Foothills communities along the San Gabriel Valley.

- Alhambra School District
- Arcadia Unified School District
- Azusa Unified School District
- Baldwin Park Unified School District
- Duarte Unified School District
- Monrovia Unified School District
- Pasadena Unified School District
- San Gabriel Unified School District
- Temple City Unified School District

AMERICAN RED CROSS SHELTER (OPEN):

Jackie Robinson Park

1081 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena 91103

PUBLIC WORKS MESSAGE:

To report trees down, inoperable County-maintained traffic signals, damage to roadways and County facilities, call 1-800 675-HELP (4375).

ALERT LA COUNTY:

County of Los Angeles residents and businesses can voluntarily register their land line telephone numbers, mobile telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses with Alert LA County.

The County's mass notification system will contact residents and businesses only if they are in an impacted area due to an emergency or disaster.

Alert LA County is a component of the overall emergency notification plan and should not be seen as the only means of emergency notification. Areas with existing

notifications systems may continue to use their own system independent of the Alert LA County.

To register online for Alert LA County, please go to <http://lacounty.gov>.

EMERGENCY SURVIVAL GUIDE:

In coordination with the Board of Supervisors, the Office of Emergency Management has prepared a comprehensive guide to emergency preparedness intended to help the residents of the County of Los Angeles to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

The Emergency Survival Guide features helpful tips and information for residents to prepare for fires, floods, earthquakes, pandemic flu, terrorism, extreme weather, and tsunamis.

The Emergency Survival Guide is available at <http://lacounty.gov>.

EMERGENCY SURVIVAL PROGRAM (ESP):

The Emergency Survival Program (ESP) is designed to help the public prepare for earthquakes and other emergencies by encouraging them to take a different preparedness step each month of the year.

We have a variety of public information materials to make it easy for families to prepare for emergencies. Some of these include our ESP Family Steps to Survival guide, ESP Activity Book for Kids, Neighborhood Preparedness plan, etc.

We encourage everyone to take advantage of the wealth of information that is provided by ESP.

Log on to our ESP website at www.espfocus.org to get the free ESP information.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CHECKLISTS “10 ESSENTIAL ITEMS”

To prepare County residents to prepare for and survive a major earthquake, tsunami, fire, flood, act of terrorism and/or other disasters, the County of Los Angeles Office of Emergency Management has developed through its Emergency Survival Program an emergency preparedness checklist of “10 Essential Items.”

For more information, please access www.espfocus.org.

SPECIFIC NEEDS AWARENESS PLANNING (S.N.A.P.)

To better prepare the County of Los Angeles residents for natural and man-made disasters who have access and functional needs including those relating to physical,

medical, sensory, cognitive or age-related, the County has made available a voluntary disaster registry, Specific Needs Awareness Planning (S.N.A.P.).

The S.N.A.P. registry is an Internet-based system that allows residents to provide information, which is kept confidential, to public safety officials about their access or functional needs. S.N.A.P. does not guarantee priority response to the registrants, but it assists emergency response officials in planning and responding to the requirements of people with access and functional needs during a disaster by integrating database and mapping technology together.

To register for S.N.A.P., please go to <http://snap.lacounty.gov> and click on "Register Now." Registrations can be made on an individual basis or as a group. Those individuals who do not have access to the Internet or may require additional assistance can ask a family member, friend or caregiver to register for them.

INFORMATION/LINKS:

- **L.A. County Website** – <http://lacounty.gov> - Emergency Alerts
- **L.A. County Emergency Survival Guide** – <http://lacounty.gov>
- **Emergency Survival Program** – www.espfocus.org
- **Specific Needs Awareness Planning** – <http://snap.lacounty.gov>
- **L.A. County Sheriff's Department** – <http://lasd.org>
- **L.A. County Fire Department** – <http://fire.lacounty.gov>
- **L.A. County Department of Public Works** – <http://dpw.lacounty.gov>
- **211 LA County** – <http://www.211la.org>
- **Southern California Edison** – <http://www.sce.com>