



City of Highland Weekly Report

September 23, 2011

Santa Ana Winds Season Brings Heightened Fire Awareness

Administration

Santa Ana Wind Season Brings Heightened Fire Awareness — the extreme fire hazard that exists across San Bernardino County and the Inland Empire grows in potential with



the arrival of the Santa Ana winds. The “**Devil Winds**” as they are known, race through Southern California primarily during the months of October through December. However,

it is not unusual to experience Santa Ana winds as early as September or as late as February the next year.

Many of Southern California's most disastrous fires have been driven by strong, dry Santa Ana winds. This includes the Panorama fire of November 1980 that destroyed 345 structures and killed four people, the 2003 Grand Prix and Old fires and the deadly Esparanza fire that killed five U.S. Forest Service firefighters.

CAL FIRE San Bernardino Unit Chief Tim McClelland says “**fire safety needs to be on the mind of all the residents of San Bernardino County and the Inland Empire,**

especially those who live and recreate in the mountains and wildland areas”. Residents in the urban intermix and wildland areas need to maintain a fire safe clearance of a minimum of 100 feet around all structures or to the property line.” Even if you did your clearance in the spring, you should give the property a once over so that you have good defensible space around your structures. This defensible space provides firefighters the area they need in many instances to mount an effective defense of your home such as we witnessed during the recent Hill fire in the Oak Hills area of the High Desert. Fire officials credit the residents of the area for being proactive in keeping their properties clear and defensible.

According to weather experts, the Santa Ana wind cycle begins when high pressure from the northeast pushes the hot dry winds into Southern California. These winds can reach average speeds of 35 to 45 miles per hour but can accelerate to hurricane speeds such as the winds in 2007 that reached recorded gusts of 111 miles per hour. These wind speeds equate to a category two hurricane. The racing winds, dry weather, and low humidity combine to create a prescription for disaster. In 2003 the Santa Ana winds drove fires that destroyed nearly three quarters of a

million acres across Southern California. Again in 2007, the winds drove flames across 426,000 acres.

Another reason that makes the Santa Ana winds so dangerous is their appeal to arsonists. The hot and dry vegetation beckons to the destructive tendencies of an arsonist like we saw in August of 2009 in the Oak Glen III fire which was arson caused and burned more than 1,000 acres and destroyed one residential structure.

With this in mind Chief McClelland says "it is very important for residents everywhere especially in the mountain and wildland areas to pay attention to suspicious actions. If you see something suspicious or a person acting suspiciously report it to CAL FIRE, your local fire department or law enforcement agency".



The 1994 "One Strike for Arson" law punishes any person who **willfully, maliciously, deliberately, with premeditation and with specific intent**, sets fire to, burns, or causes to be burned, any residence, structure, forest land or property. That person when convicted is guilty of aggravated arson. According to this law, if any one or more of the specified aggravated factors exists, the person convicted **SHALL** not be eligible for probation and **SHALL** be imprisoned in state prison for ten years to life.

As we have seen in the last few weeks, the vegetation across Southern California is tinder dry and with low humidity and high winds, very susceptible to ignition. Almost any type of heat source can start a fire in these conditions. If you see a fire, no matter what size, report it to the nearest fire department or call "911". Please do not assume that another person made the call.

The quicker the public reports a fire, the faster firefighters can respond. Remember, that if you have information about how a fire started,

report it to the fire department or law enforcement.

CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Battalion Chief Preston Fouts says "preventing fires is everyone's business. If we work together, we can keep our homes and property, recreational areas and most of all our loved ones safe from the ravages of wildfire".

Community Development

Planning Commission determination: At its September 20, 2011, regular Meeting, the Commission considered the following Items:

1. A Modification to an Existing Sign Program for Stoney Creek Center (ASR 011-012). The Project is generally located at Boulder Avenue and Jasper Street. The address is 7354 Stoney Creek Drive. APN: 1201-091-60-0-000. Representative: Bill Jamal, Infiniti Commercial, LLC.

The Planning Commission's intention is to deny the Sign Program based upon the comments made at the Meeting and Directed Staff to prepare a Revised Findings of Facts and return in two weeks for consideration.

2. A Modification to an Existing Sign Program for Jack in the Box Restaurant (ASR 011-018). The Project is located at the southwest corner of Sterling Avenue and Base Line. The address is 25699 Base Line. APN: 0278-121-39. Representative: Travis Crouser, CNP Signs and Graphics.

At the request of the Applicant, the Planning Commission continued this Item to October 18, 2011.

Public Services



REPETE'S WISDOM OF THE WEEK - Proper Disposal of Home Generated Sharps.

Effective September 1, 2008 - state law made it **ILLEGAL** to dispose of sharps (hyprdermic needles, pen needles, intravenous needles and lancets) in the trash, recycling or compost bins.

Finding ways to safely dispose of used medical sharps is an important public health priority.



Since sharps can no longer be disposed of in the trash, those who use sharps must be aware of proper disposal methods to avoid haphazard disposal habits and accidental exposure to used sharps. Although needle-stick injuries are occupational hazards for sanitation, housekeeping, and janitorial workers, children and pets are also at risk for being stuck by improperly discarded used sharps.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department through their Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility offers a sharps program to all San Bernardino County residents which provide a safe, easy and free method for dispose of used sharps. Residents can pick up a container, return it when full and get a new container.

Please follow a few simple rules when disposing of your sharps to help yourself and others avoid needle sticks.

DON'T

- Put used sharps in the garbage/trash, whether at home or away from home.
- Put needles in your recycling cart or any recycling containers.
- Flush needles down the toilet.
- Handle someone else's sharps.
- Put needles into used plastic milk jugs, bleach or soda bottles.
- Overfill your sharps containers.

DO

- Use only approved sharps container for disposal.
- Place a secure lid on the sharps container.

- Check with your HHW collection facility to verify Home Generated Sharps Collection Sites.
- Ask you local HHW collection facility for clarification on sharps management and disposal, if necessary.

When traveling with needles don't forget, safe sharps disposal no matter where you are - at home, at work or even on the road. Never place used needles in the trash on airplanes, in hotel rooms or in public restrooms. When you make your travel arrangements ask about options for safe sharps disposal. If you are not sure that sharps containers will be available where you are going, be sure to buy a needle container that can hold your used needles until they can be properly disposed of.

For more information on proper sharps disposal or to get the drop off location nearest you, please call 1-800-OILY CAT or (909) 382-5401.

Volunteer Services

Community Blood Drive for September...

Mark your calendar! Highland's next BLOOD DRIVE is Monday, September 26th from 1:30pm to 6:30pm at the Jerry Lewis Community Center located at 7793 Central Avenue - Highland

We can all help Highland increase its blood donations. Hope to see you all there!



Interested in becoming a volunteer or donor?

Contact Volunteer Services Coordinator, Denise Garnsey at 909-864-6861 extension 203

Highland Improvement Team - October HIT... Our next HIT cleanup will be on Saturday, October 15, 2011 from 8:00am to noon. Anyone interested in "Making a Difference" can register the morning of the cleanup from 7:30am to 8:00am at Highland City Hall. City Hall is located

at 27215 Baseline. Volunteers will need to provide their own transportation to and from the cleanup site.

For more information or questions regarding the Highland Improvement Team, please contact Denise Garnsey, Volunteer Services at 909-864-6861 extension 203.

Residential Cleanups Wanted...The Highland Improvement Team (H.I.T.) is currently accepting requests for residential cleanups. We urge Highland homeowners who need help with yard cleanup and minor landscaping to contact Volunteer Services as soon as possible. Requests are screened and scheduled on a first come, first served basis.

Our mission is to improve the overall environment of our city for all residents and businesses.

Top priority is property cleanup projects for disabled and senior citizens. There are no income eligibility requirements and absolutely no charge to the homeowner. A fabulous team of volunteers complete all work and repair at H.I.T. projects.

Here are the few qualifications:

1. Must be 55 years and older or disabled
2. Must own and reside in your home

The Highland Improvement Team schedules one cleanup per month. Each cleanup requires enough work to fill the allotted four-hour period, usually from 8:00am to noon.

The Highland Improvement Team has scheduled the September project and currently is in the process of verifying the project for October. If you are interested in being the next cleanup or want to know if you qualify, contact Volunteer Services at 909-864-6861 extension 203.

Library News

Highland Branch Library Hosts 3rd Annual Kindergarten Readiness Fair. The Highland Branch Library is presenting the 3rd Annual Kindergarten Readiness Fair Wednesday September 28, 2011 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. This free event is focused on local services provided for children to help them achieve their kindergarten standards and prepare them for entering school. Services vary from preschools to health care.



What does your child need to know to enter kindergarten? Are their vaccinations up to date? Do you have their medical records? Can they say their ABC's and 123's? These are just some of the questions that parents can ask themselves to be sure that their child is prepared for kindergarten. We hope that you will be able to get some insights from our guests.

This event will take place Wednesday September 28, 2011 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Highland Branch Library. We are located at 7863 Central Avenue, Highland C.A. For more information call (909) 425-4700.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 26, 2011

1:30pm to 6:30pm - Highland Community Blood Drive, Jerry Lewis Community Center - 7793 Central Avenue

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

8:30am - Public Safety Subcommittee Meeting, Upright Conference Room
6pm - Regular City Council Meeting, Council Chambers

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

4pm - Public Nuisance Hearing Board Special Meeting has been cancelled

Thursday, October 6, 2011

5pm - Historic and Cultural Preservation Board Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

6pm - Regular City Council Meeting, Council Chambers

Thursday, October 13, 2011

5pm - Community Trails Committee Regular Meeting has been cancelled

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

6pm - Regular City Council Meeting, Council Chambers

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

Friday, November 4, 2011

Save the Date - 18th Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner,

Tuesday, November 08, 2011

6pm - Regular City Council Meeting, Council Chambers

Thursday, November 10, 2011

5pm - Community Trails Committee Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

Friday, November 11, 2011

Veteran's Day - City Offices are closed

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

Tuesday, November 22, 2011

6pm - Regular City Council Meeting, Council Chambers

Thursday - Friday, November 24 - 25, 2011

Thanksgiving Holiday - City Offices are closed

Thursday, December 1, 2011

5pm - Historic and Cultural Preservation Board Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers
5:30pm - Joint Study Session with the Historic and Cultural Preservation Board and Highland Area Chamber of Commerce, Upright Conference Room

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

Thursday, December 8, 2011

5pm - Community Trails Committee Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

Thursday, January 5, 2012

5:30pm - Joint Study Session with the Historic & Cultural Preservation Board & Highland Area Chamber of Commerce, Upright Conference Room

Thursday, January 12, 2012

5pm - Community Trails Committee Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

Assembled by: Elena Rodrigues