

Santa Ana Wind Safety Points

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Various Wind Scenarios

- **Wind Advisory:** Wind Advisories are issued for sustained winds 31 to 39 mph lasting for more than one hour and/or wind gusts 46 to 57 mph for any duration. It means strong winds are occurring but are less serious and not strong enough to warrant a High Wind Warning. Outdoor objects should be secured and everyone should be cautious while driving.
- **High Wind Watch:** High Wind Watches are issued if sustained, strong winds are possible within 24 to 48 hours. Usually, this is issued ahead of time to allow time for preparation. Secure loose outdoor items and adjust plans as necessary so you're not caught off guard outside.
- **High Wind Warning:** High Wind Watches turn into High Wind Warnings, which are issued for sustained winds 40 mph or greater lasting more than one hour and/or wind gusts 58 mph or greater for any duration. It means these winds are ongoing and very likely pose a threat to life or property. Stay indoors if possible, and if you are driving, keep both hands on the wheel and slow down.

Various Wind Scenarios

Continued

- **Fire Weather Watch:** Fire Weather Watches are issued if rapid initiation and spread of wildfires are possible within 12 to 24 hours, along with sustained winds of at least 20 mph for at least two hours, minimum relative humidities of 30 percent or less and 10-hour fuel moistures of 10 percent or less for at least two days.
- **Red Flag Warning:** Fire Weather Watches turn into Red Flag Warnings, which are issued if rapid initiation and spread of wildfires are ongoing. Other criteria include sustained winds of at least at 20 mph for at least two hours, minimum relative humidity of 30 percent or less and 10-hour fuel moistures of 10-percent or less for at least two days.
- Note that Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings have not been issued recently because of the significant rainfall in December, but conditions continue to dry out with each Santa Ana Wind event. Fuel moisture is becoming drier across the Southern California landscape, and we may start to see [a bigger threat for wildfires](#) soon if this dry and windy pattern persists.

Before A High Wind Event

- Bring what you can indoors, or store items in a shed or garage.
- Tie down anything outdoors that could blow away, fly through a window or hit a car. This includes garbage cans, patio furniture, pool toys and any other outdoor decor in your front or back yards.
- Cover patio furniture or stack it, place it in a corner or near a wall and weigh it down with something, which will prevent it from being exposed to the elements. If you have an umbrella, make sure there is enough weight holding down the base and also close and secure the canopy.
- Stay clear of trees and power lines prior to wind events and do not to park your car under them.
- Make sure the trees on your property are trimmed up and away from your house and any power lines.
- Secure loose shutters and gutters and make sure they are clean of any debris.
- If you live in a mobile home in a strong wind region like the high desert or the base of the Cajon Pass and a High Wind Watch/Warning is issued, have a plan to take shelter in a sturdy building if need be.
- Have your emergency kits ready, with enough food and water for each person in the home. This is in case the power goes out for an extended period of time. Charge batteries for flashlights, cell phones and any other necessary items.
- Use caution when driving, especially traveling in a high profile vehicle such as a bus, semi-truck, car-towing trailer or RV. It's these type of vehicles that are more prone to overturn thanks to strong crosswinds. If you are driving near one of these types of vehicles, make sure to reduce speed and keep your distance.

