

NEWS RELEASE



MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Rangers and Fire Prevention Staff to Ramp Up Mulholland Patrol to 24 hours during Red Flag Conditions through Wednesday

Extreme Fire Conditions Due to Gusty Santa Ana Winds, High Temperatures, and Low Humidity Trigger High Alert

LOS ANGELES (October 22, 2017) – The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) announced its Rangers and Fire Prevention staff will provide extended fire prevention patrol in the Mulholland Corridor from Griffith Park west to the City of Calabasas during the Red Flag Warning period through Wednesday in Los Angeles County issued by the National Weather Service.

“Our mission during high fire danger days is to provide high visibility patrols day and night, contact people illegally smoking, and assist our allied agencies during an emergency event,” said Chief Ranger Fernando Gomez.

After last season’s record rains, the Santa Monica Mountains are covered with dry grasses that pose a dangerous and volatile fire risk. “We need all residents to be alert to suspicious activities, particularly in the Mulholland Scenic Overlooks and open space areas,” said Gomez. “If you see activity that causes concern call the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Ranger Services at 310 456-7049. In an emergency always call 911.”

In addition, MRCA Rangers will be working with Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department Arson Watch to assist fire prevention efforts in the Topanga, Calabasas, Agoura Hills and Malibu areas. Rangers will make face to face contact when warranted, serve as backup to the Arson Watch volunteers, and work with emergency crews as necessary.

Earlier in the season, the MRCA installed bright red high fire alert signs at all of the Mulholland scenic overlooks and at open space parklands throughout the hillsides and

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Increased Ranger Patrols During Red Flag Warning
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canyons of the Mulholland Corridor and in the Santa Monica Mountains to remind residents and visitors to be attentive to fire danger and suspicious activity.

The MRCA works year-round to minimize the risk of fire in the more than 72,000 acres of open space it manages in the greater Los Angeles region. The MRCA employs more than 50 full time, paid call, cadet and volunteer fire fighters—including its park rangers—who are wildland firefighters certified to the same standards as the U.S. Forest Service and CalFire.

The MRCA Fire Division maintains its own firefighting equipment to assist local fire departments in fighting wildfires and to provide fire patrol under high fire alert conditions. Ranger patrol trucks are fitted with slip-ons, and provide flexibility in patrolling the narrow, twisty canyons that characterize the hillsides of the Mulholland corridor. Rangers patrol seven days a week during the high-risk month of October. During red flag conditions, the MRCA patrols the Mulholland Corridor in the Santa Monica Mountains 24 hours a day.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is a local public park agency dedicated to the preservation and management of open space, urban parkland, watershed lands, trails, and wildlife habitat. The MRCA manages more than 72,000 acres of public parkland and provides natural resources and scientific expertise, critical regional planning services, operations, fire prevention and ranger services, as well as education and leadership programs for thousands of youth each year. It is one of the lead agencies revitalizing the Los Angeles River and its tributaries.

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