

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

NOTICE
15.2

April 17, 2019

TO: All Department Personnel

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE DURING RED FLAG
ALERTS WITHIN VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES
REFERENCE CARD – ACTIVATED

The purpose of this Notice is to advise Department personnel that a reference card has been developed for field officers to refer to during Red Flag Alerts within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ).

The information contained in the reference card has been condensed from the Department's Brushfire Response Guide, and also includes a procedural component for homeless encampments.

The information has been printed on a 4 x 9 inch laminated card for ease of use by officers in the field. The reference card is attached for immediate use and duplication, and will be available for pick up from General Services Division within 30 days.

Any questions regarding this Notice may be directed to the Emergency Services Division, at (323) 342-4267.



MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police

Attachment

DISTRIBUTION "D"

Los Angeles Police Department
Response During Red Flag Alerts Within
Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones
Reference Card

PURPOSE

The City of Los Angeles has experienced numerous destructive wildfires, and the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) plays an integral role in the City's response to wildfires by assisting in evacuations and traffic control. In recent years, a lengthy drought, coupled with a significant increase of homeless encampments within areas of dense vegetation, has increased fire ignition risks resulting from warming and cooking fires. This informational card defines important terms, identifies key resources, and provides specific strategies for officers responding to Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones during Red Flag Alerts.

DEFINITIONS

- **(VHFHSZ) – VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE:** Determined by California State Law, VHFHSZ comprises most of the hilly and mountainous regions of the City of Los Angeles, with the greatest risk of uncontrolled wildfires. Please refer to <https://www.lafd.org/fire-zone> for a map of the VHFHSZ.
- **(RFC) – RED FLAG CONDITION:** An RFC is issued by LAFD, when weather conditions meet the following criteria:
Humidity is less than 15%.
Winds are stronger than 25 mph.
- **(RFA) – RED FLAG ALERT:** An RFA is the public notice that is issued by LAFD to notify community members that a red flag condition exists. An RFA indicates an RFC exists in the right combination to cause serious threat of imminent brushfires, causing the City to take certain protective actions.
- **RED FLAG RESTRICTED PARKING PROGRAM:**
This program is activated during an RFC. The program helps to educate the public on the potential hazards, such as narrow roads, tight curves, and critical intersections by allowing for the removal of illegally parked vehicles in posted locations which may delay the ingress of the Fire Department and the egress of the public evacuating the area. Please refer to <http://notify.lafd.org/redflag> for Red Flag status.
- **(UHRC):** Unified Homelessness Response Center.
- **(HOPE):** Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement.

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DEPARTMENT RESOURCES
(COORDINATED THROUGH THE UHRC)

- Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement (HOPE):
Office of Operations, 100 W. First St., Los Angeles –
(213) 486-6633
- Off Road Unit (ORU): Valley Traffic Division,
7870 Nollan Place, Panorama City – (818) 644-8000
- Air Support Division (ASD): Piper Technical Center,
555 Ramirez St. Space 475, Los Angeles – (213) 485-2600

CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL FIRST RESPONDERS

To ensure public safety for all within the VHFHSZ, specifically during Red Flag Alerts, the Department has developed the following protocols:

- Department Operations Center (DOC) will notify Area Watch Commanders and the UHRC of a Red Flag Alert.
- Bureau HOPE Teams will respond to vehicle-accessible areas within the VHFHSZ to educate and advise individuals of the potential dangers of staying in the area.
- Department ORU personnel will respond to less accessible areas to educate and advise individuals of the potential dangers of staying in the VHFHSZ.
- Air Support Division will survey the VHFHSZ and utilize the public announcement system to advise individuals of the potential fire danger.
- All efforts should include notification to the UHRC, who will assist in coordinating resources in the less accessible areas within the VHFHSZ.
- Priority should be placed on leading with services and education. Taking enforcement action should be a last resort.
- If applicable, Body Worn Video shall be activated, per Department policy, for all enforcement actions.

Department personnel shall maintain situational awareness to determine if the area is safe to enter to provide education and advisement of the high fire hazards.

Response during RFCs and RFAs will be a collaborative effort to include all appropriate City/county resources.