



A MESSAGE FROM ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF GREGORY HISEL

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT



Have You Prepared?

READY! SET! GO!

Your Personal Wildfire Action Plan

Over the past several months, we have been meeting with our communities to help residents prepare for what we expect to be a very challenging fire season. Throughout Southern California and the State, fire agencies are battling wildland fires and experiencing fire behavior that has not been witnessed in many years. The drought, the fuels, the dry brush, and other factors are contributing to wildland fires moving faster, changing direction, destroying homes and sadly, taking lives.

These fires become more dynamic when we experience "Santa-Ana" wind events or high winds and "Red-Flag" weather conditions. As we have been discussing, the fire danger is especially critical when the winds are high causing the fire to move quickly, possibly jumping roads and ridges. These conditions may also create unique fire weather, making the battle difficult to fight. With this in mind, the National Weather Service has issued a high wind advisory for areas of Los Angeles County for the next 12-hours beginning tonight at 9:00 p.m. We will certainly be seeing more wind advisories for the next several months.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department operates a fleet of eight firefighting helicopters available to respond to fires and other emergencies each and every day throughout the County. And many are aware that each year during the fall months, the Department leases two CL-415 Super Scoopers from Quebec Canada to help in the firefighting effort, along with an Erickson Air-Crane helicopter.

However, this year the Los Angeles County Fire Department has added two additional SuperScoopers. Along with the Department's fleet of eight (8) helicopters (3 Fire Hawks and 5 Bell 412's) we now contract four (4) CL-415 SuperScoopers. This is the first time in the County's history that we have ordered an additional two SuperScoopers and that should get the attention of our homeowners. Especially those who live in the brush covered canyon areas, those living near the Angeles National Forest, and homeowners in the areas known as the "Urban Wildland Interface."

As your Assistant Fire Chief, I urge you to prepare now. Take the time to implement the steps we have been sharing with you over the past several months. Review these steps in the *READY! SET! Go! Guide (Your personal Wildfire Action Plan)*. The fire fight begins with you. By preparing your family and your home now, you give your local firefighters the best chance to defend your home and protect your family during a wildland fire.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or visit any Los Angeles County Fire Station.

Be Safe!

**To obtain a copy of the READY! SET! GO! Guide: Visit any Los Angeles County Fire Station or go to:
www.fire.lacounty.gov**