

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

735



FROM: Fire

SUBMITTAL DATE:
May 29, 2014

SUBJECT: April 30, 2014 Severe Wind Event-Summary of Response by the Riverside County Fire Department

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:
Receive and File this report on the summary of the response by the Riverside County Fire Department to the Severe Winds that impacted the County on April 30, 2014.

BACKGROUND:

Summary

On Wednesday, April 30, 2014, severe winds impacted much of Riverside County. Especially hard hit were the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto, the Soboba Tribe, the entire San Jacinto Valley, and the mountain communities of Idyllwild, Pine Cove and Garner Valley. The damage caused by the severe winds included downed trees and power lines, blocked roads, school closures, power outages and fires. Two mobile homes were destroyed in a fast moving fire in the city of Hemet. The impacted areas sustained more than six-hundred thousand dollars in wind related damage and clean-up.

(continued on page 2)

Glenn Patterson, Deputy Chief for
John R. Hawkins, County Fire Chief

Departmental Concurrence

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost:	POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)
COST	\$ N/A	\$	\$	\$	Consent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/>
NET COUNTY COST	\$	\$	\$	\$	
SOURCE OF FUNDS:				Budget Adjustment: No	
				For Fiscal Year: 13/14	

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

BY:

County Executive Office Signature

Tina Grande

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- Positions Added
- Change Order
- A-30
- 4/5 Vote

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District:

Agenda Number:

2-14

BACKGROUND:

Summary (continued)

The wind, although uncommon for this time of year, produced very serious and destructive winds over the west end of Riverside County. Although no serious wildfires occurred in the County, serious property damage did occur in the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley as a result of the winds. The severe winds were a major impact to the community, businesses, schools, and were an immediate threat to the public's safety. Downed trees and power lines posed an immediate threat to people on the roads, and in their homes. Schools sustained damage from wind-blown debris and downed trees.

The first wind related incident notification was made to the County Fire-OES Duty Officer just after 10:00am. The notification was for multiple trees and power lines that were down in the Hemet/San Jacinto Area.

By 11:00am, County Fire-OES Staff had made several notifications to the impacted cities (Hemet and San Jacinto), offering assistance and determining the extent of the damage. Contacts were also made with Southern California Edison to determine the extent of the power outages to the area.

Two school districts were severely impacted (Hemet Unified School District and San Jacinto Unified School District). The impacts to the schools were serious enough that the districts implemented their "no kids walk home" plan, due to the large amount of trees and power lines that were down. The San Jacinto USD cancelled school on May 1 due to the extent of damage and cleanup.

At 12:57pm, the City of Hemet received a report of a fire in a Mobile Home Park located off Alessandro Street and Oakland Avenue in Central Hemet. The fire, which was believed to be caused by downed power lines quickly spread due to the winds. Blowing embers spread throughout the mobile home park, catching palm trees and other vegetation on fire. Unfortunately, the embers did spread and resulted in two mobile homes being destroyed and several others being damaged by fire. At the request of the City of Hemet, Riverside County Fire Department dispatched twelve fire engines along with two battalion chiefs to assist the city. The cities of Riverside, Corona and Murrieta also provided fire engines to assist.

The cities of Hemet and San Jacinto, along with the two school districts activated their Emergency Operations Center (EOC) around 1:30pm. The County of Riverside activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to a Management Watch Status at 1:45pm in support of the impacted jurisdictions.

Throughout the afternoon, County Fire-OES staff and the Emergency Operations Center were in constant communications with impacted agencies, sending out situation summaries to the Operational Area, and providing updates to the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal-OES). Both the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto proclaimed local emergencies due to the severe winds. The cities, along with the School Districts, and the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians incurred more than six-hundred thousand dollars in storm related damage and cleanup.

The majority of property damage was isolated to the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto, the Soboba Tribe, and the surrounding communities. In the Hemet and San Jacinto Valley hundreds of trees were toppled from the wind, and numerous power lines were impacted. Approximately twelve homes also suffered roof damage from the severe winds. Debris removal and clean-up was a major task that took several days to complete. The winds began to subside around 5:00pm, and the situation stabilized. At approximately 6:00pm, the county, the cities and the school districts de-activated their Emergency Operations Centers (EOC).

Impact on Citizens and Businesses

The severe wind and the damage caused impacted both the citizens and the businesses in the affected areas. Luckily, no serious injuries were reported.

APPENDICES:
(Situation Summary Reports from the Emergency Operations Center)

SITUATION SUMMARY REPORT #1
Situation updates will be provided as warranted

DATE AND TIME OF THIS REPORT: Wednesday, April 30, 2014 @ 1415 hrs.

PREPARED BY: Riverside County Fire Department
Office of Emergency Services
Phone: (951) 955-4700
Email: rvceoc@fire.ca.gov

EVENT/INCIDENT NAME: April 30th Severe Wind Event

SITUATION ASSESSMENT:

- Severe winds continue to impact many areas of Riverside County resulting in dozens of downed power lines causing widespread power outages and other impacts throughout the County. There are multiple communication outages in the City of Indio which are affecting all three area hospitals (JFK, Desert Regional and Eisenhower).
- San Jacinto Unified School District is contacting parents advising them that all kids must be picked up from school; no children will be allowed to walk home due to numerous trees and power lines down. All after school activities have been cancelled
- Hemet Unified School District is contacting parents advising them that all kids must be picked up from school, no children will be allowed to walk home due to numerous trees and power lines down
- City of Hemet is experiencing multiple structure fires with confirmed reports of structure loss.
- Power Outages: Edison reports that approximately 4,650 customers are without power. Most of the impacted area is in the San Jacinto Valley

If your city or jurisdiction activates and/or is experiencing damage, please immediately notify Riverside County EOC (951) 955-4700.

ACTIVATIONS:

- Riverside County EOC is at Management Watch
- City of San Jacinto EOC activated at Level 1 (lowest level)
- San Jacinto Unified School District EOC Activated at Level 3 (highest level)
- City of Hemet is at Management Watch
- Hemet Unified School District EOC is at Management watch

SHELTER LOCATIONS (OR EVACUATION SITES):

- There are no evacuation or shelters opened at this time

ROAD CLOSURES: <http://www.rctlma.org/trans/>

- Fern Valley Road Between Thornton Ave. & Boyer Ave (Downed Trees)
- San Jacinto Road Between Cornell and Yale St. (Downed Trees)
- Tahquitz Rd. Between Aurora and Katharin St. (Downed Trees)

WEATHER FORECAST BY: NOAA Predictive Services

FIRE WEATHER PLANNING FORECAST FOR EXTREME SOUTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SAN DIEGO CA
308 AM PDT WED APR 30 2014

RED FLAG WARNING UNTIL 8 PM THURSDAY FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY COASTAL AREAS...THE INLAND EMPIRE...THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MOUNTAINS...AND RIVERSIDE COUNTY MOUNTAINS...

STRONG NORTHEAST WINDS THROUGH THURSDAY AND VERY LOW HUMIDITY WITH POOR OVERNIGHT RECOVERY THROUGH FRIDAY...

DISCUSSION...

HIGH PRESSURE ALOFT NEAR THE WEST COAST AND OFFSHORE FLOW WILL BRING HOT...DRY AND WINDY WEATHER ESPECIALLY FROM THE FOOTHILLS TO THE COAST. SANTA ANA CONDITIONS WILL BRING STRONG GUSTY NORTHEAST WINDS IN THE COASTAL FOOTHILLS AND BELOW PASSES AND CANYONS TODAY. SLIGHTLY WEAKER WINDS THURSDAY. MUCH WEAKER WINDS FOR FRIDAY ALTHOUGH IT WILL CONTINUE VERY DRY EXCEPT AT THE IMMEDIATE COAST. WEAK ONSHORE FLOW WILL RETURN LATE FRIDAY AND STRENGTHEN THROUGH TUESDAY. THIS WILL BRING A COOLING TREND WITH INCREASING HUMIDITY ALONG WITH GUSTY WEST WINDS IN THE MOUNTAINS AND DESERTS.

SITUATION SUMMARY REPORT #2

Situation updates will be provided as warranted

DATE AND TIME OF THIS REPORT: Wednesday, April 30, 2014 @ 1525 hrs.

PREPARED BY: Riverside County Fire Department
Office of Emergency Services
Phone: (951) 955-4700
Email: rvceoc@fire.ca.gov

EVENT/INCIDENT NAME: April 30th Severe Wind Event

SITUATION ASSESSMENT (SUMMARY OF NEW INFORMATION SINCE LAST REPORT):

- San Jacinto has proclaimed a local emergency; this info. has been forwarded to the State
- The City of Hemet is evaluating the need for an Evacuation Center based on damage caused by fire near the mobile homes in the area of Gilbert and Alessandro
- Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians is reporting widespread power outages and damages across the Reservation

If your city or jurisdiction activates and/or is experiencing damage, please immediately notify Riverside County EOC (951) 955-4700.

ACTIVATIONS:

- Riverside County EOC is at Management Watch
- City of San Jacinto EOC activated at Level 1 (lowest level)
- San Jacinto Unified School District EOC Activated at Level 3 (highest level)
- City of Hemet is at Management Watch
- Hemet Unified School District EOC is at Management watch

SHELTER LOCATIONS (OR EVACUATION SITES):

- There are no evacuation or shelters opened at this time

ROAD CLOSURES: <http://www.rctlma.org/trans/>

- Boyer Ave between Yale St and Cornell St. (East Hemet/Valle Vista Area)
- Thornton between Cornell and Aurora (East Hemet/Valle Vista Area)

WEATHER FORECAST BY: NOAA Predictive Services

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SITUATION SUMMARY REPORT #3

This will be the final report for this event unless the situation warrants additional updates

DATE AND TIME OF THIS REPORT: Wednesday, April 30, 2014 @ 1800 hrs.

PREPARED BY: Riverside County Fire Department
Office of Emergency Services
Phone: (951) 955-4700
Email: rvceoc@fire.ca.gov

EVENT/INCIDENT NAME: April 30th Severe Wind Event

SITUATION ASSESSMENT (SUMMARY OF NEW INFORMATION SINCE LAST REPORT):

- Due to high winds, Mt. San Jacinto College is cancelling classes today, April 30, 2014 at the San Jacinto Campus only. They are asking students who do not have immediate transportation to stay at the campus in-doors in the cafeteria or the library and not to wait at the bus shelters.
- San Jacinto Unified School District will be closing all schools and cancelling classes tomorrow due to the severe wind event & damage
- Telepacific is now estimating repair of phone lines to be between 5 to 6 PM this evening for the City of Indio
- City of Hemet is evaluating and will determine tomorrow if they will proclaim a local emergency

To reach the RVC Fire OES Duty Officer after-hours, please call (951) 955-4700 and the message prompts will direct you on how to reach the Duty Officer.

ACTIVATIONS:

- The Riverside County EOC is returning to Duty Officer status as of 1800 hrs.
- San Jacinto Unified School District EOC will return to Management Watch @ 1800 hrs.
- City of San Jacinto EOC will go to Management Watch at 1800 hrs.
- Hemet Unified School District EOC is at Management watch

SHELTER LOCATIONS (OR EVACUATION SITES):

- There are no evacuation or shelters opened at this time

ROAD CLOSURES: <http://www.rctlma.org/trans/>

- Boyer Ave between Yale St and Katharin St. (East Hemet/Valle Vista Area)
- Thornton between Cornell and Aurora (East Hemet/Valle Vista Area)
- Fern Valley Road between San Jacinto Road and Tahquitz Road
- Morongo road from Hathaway to Garcia