

## HAZARDS AND THREATS

### TORNADOES AND TWISTERS

#### History of Tornadoes, Funnel Clouds and Waterspouts that Impacted the L.A. County Operational Area

**March 16, 1952:** Tornado in Santa Monica...Three people died in storm.

**November 7, 1966:** Tornado hits the City of Hawthorne.

**February 10, 1978:** Tornado hits El Segundo as trees were hurled onto parked cars. Power poles knocked down.

**November 9, 1982:** Seven tornadoes touched down in the Los Angeles basin. Three began as waterspouts at Pt. Mugu, Malibu and Long Beach. The Long Beach waterspout moved 10 miles inland and became an F2 Tornado. Another tornado reached F2 strength in Van Nuys. Property damage was sustained especially in Long Beach.

**March 1, 1983:** Two tornadoes categorized as F2 and F0 touched down in the Los Angeles basin. In all 30 people were injured and 100 homes were damaged. At 8 p.m., an F2 tornado damaged seven businesses and 50 homes in South Central Los Angeles. The tornado caused 30 injuries and stopped just about one mile before reaching the Los Angeles civic center area. F0 tornado injured a motorist when his Cadillac vehicle was lifted 15 feet off the ground and carried across a highway in San Marino.

**January 9, 1998:** A waterspout develops three miles off Laguna Beach and turns into a tornado that impacted Long Beach. Property damage was sustained in Long Beach.

**March 13-14, 1998:** Numerous waterspouts are witnessed between Long Beach, Huntington Beach and Santa Catalina Island.

**September 2, 1998:** A funnel cloud developed over Pomona.

**November 1, 2003:** Large waterspouts reported between Laguna Beach and Santa Catalina Island.

**December 28, 2004:** Tornadoes cause minor damage to trees and roofs in Long Beach, Inglewood and Whittier.

**February 7, 2009:** Three waterspouts were reported eight miles south of San Pedro.

**January 19, 2010 Winter Storm (Compton):** A funnel cloud touched ground briefly in Compton.

## [History of Strong Winds that Impacted the L.A. County Operational Area](#)

**November 25, 1918:** A strong windstorm produced a wind gust of 96 miles per hour in Mt. Wilson area.

**September 24-25, 1939:** A tropical storm lost hurricane status shortly before moving on shore at San Pedro generating sustained winds at 50 miles per hour. 48 people died due to sinking boats.

**November 19-29, 1956:** A strong and prolonged Santa Ana wind event started on November 19 and ended on November 29. On November 20, 100 mile per hour wind gust was recorded at a forest lookout in Saugus. A fire north of Descanso started on November 19 and burned 44,000 acres. Two wooden bridges and a power plant were destroyed.

**November 5-6, 1961:** Strong Santa Ana winds fanned fires in Bel Air and Brentwood. There was also a fire in Topanga Canyon where 103 firemen were injured. The fire brought \$100 million economic losses including 484 buildings, mostly residential, and 6,090 acres destroyed.

**February 4-10, 1976:** Strong storm winds hit 64 miles per hour in Palmdale.

**October 9, 1982:** Santa Ana wind gust at 64 miles per hour as a major wildfire roared across the Santa Monica Mountains.

**November 23, 1986:** Strong Santa Ana winds hits Los Angeles area and mountain foothills. Wind gust up to 54 miles per hour were recorded, but the estimated gusts reached as high as 70 miles per hour in some areas. An unfinished house in Glendale was blown to bits. Numerous beach rescues were needed for sailors and windsurfers. Two sailboat masts were snapped in a boat race off Channel Islands.

**December 12-13, 1987:** Strong Santa Ana winds with gusts registering at 60-80 miles per hour caused a parked helicopter to be blown down a hillside in Altadena. Power poles and freeway signs were downed and damaged.

**December 15, 1987:** Strong storm wind gust measuring up to 60 miles per hour were clocked in the San Gabriel Mountains.

February 16-19, 1988: Strong Santa Ana winds with gusts up to 70 miles per hour in the San Gabriel Mountains and foothill areas on February 17. Numerous trees and power lines were downed as there were power outages in the foothill communities of the San Gabriel Mountain areas. The power outages impacted 200,000 customers in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Roof damage was widespread in communities around Glendale and Pasadena. Airplanes were flipped at Burbank Airport.

**May 29, 1988:** Gale force winds with gust up to 60 miles per hour in the mountain areas and 45 miles per hour was measured at Los Angeles International Airport. A hang glider crashed and died. Power went out and brush fires started.

**November 28, 1989:** Strong winds with gusts up to 70 miles per hour contributed to several tractor trailer trucks overturning east of Los Angeles.

**December 11, 1989:** Strong Santa Ana winds with gusts measuring at 100 miles per hour in the Grapevine area.

**December 19-21, 1991:** Strong winds with gusts of over 63 miles per hour were measured in the Santa Monica Mountains, 52 miles per hour in Van Nuys and 36 miles per hour at Los Angeles International Airport.

**November 2-4, 1993:** Santa Ana winds gust of more than 63 miles per hour were recorded as it contributed to the Old Topanga Fire that burned from Calabasas to the ocean consuming hundreds of homes.

**August 20, 1987:** The remnants of Tropical Storm Ignacio tracked northward moved inland in central California with gale force winds over portions of the Southern California coastal waters. This occurred during the strong El Nino of 1997-1998.

**January 19, 2010 Winter Storm (Compton):** A funnel cloud touched ground briefly in Compton.

**November 30-December 4, 2011:** Hurricane-force winds knock down trees & electrical power poles and caused damage in 15 cities in the Los Angeles County Operational Area.

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