

Final Report
Fire Prevention and Education Teams 1-5
Angeles National Forest
710 N. Santa Anita Ave.
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Executive Summary

In July 2004, the Angeles National Forest requested a National Wildland Fire Prevention and Education Team to assist with their prevention and education efforts. Five teams were used from July 31st to September 30, 2004.

The Teams developed six desktop reference guide books for internal use covering media information, PAL, Fire Restrictions, Strategic Planning for Fire Prevention Education, Communications strategy and a Prevention Patrol Guide. In addition, five handouts were developed following the San Bernardino/Cleveland design, specific for the Angeles. They are the Allowable Activities Matrix, Folding Pocket Card, Table Tent, and English/Spanish language versions of the tri-fold brochure and rack card.

All of the efforts by the Teams would not have been possible if not for the support of the Forest Supervisor, Jody Noiron, and the excellent direction of Don Feser and Don Garwood.

Acknowledgements

The National Wildland Fire Prevention Education Team would like to acknowledge the following individuals for assisting in our assignment:

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John Lane
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Bob Serrato
Glenn A. Skaggs
John Thomas
Darrell Walker
Angie Wise

Thank You!

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 - Emergency Fire Closure and Forest Use Plan
 - Decision and Information Process Flow Chart
 - Tri-fold Leaflet in English/Spanish
 - Rack Card in English/Spanish

Angeles NFPET materials are included on the attached CD

1. Introduction

Fire danger levels have been increasing for several years on the Forest as the result of a prolonged drought. Large portions of the Forest are at risk. These areas continue to expand as the drought persists. The Santa Ana wind events typically occur in October and November adding to the fire potential. Public use has reached approximately 10 million visits annually. Visitor travel routes and recreation corridors have highly concentrated use. There are numerous recreational residences on the Forest, most are located in high risk, high hazard fire prone areas.

Due to these factors and the possibility of closing the Forest to all users, National Fire Prevention and Education Teams were requested. The focus of the teams was to help define fire danger levels and allowable activities. As a result the teams developed brochures, leaflets and handouts for forest users, developed guidance handbooks for Fire Prevention Patrols, integration of PAL into the FDL, Fire Restrictions Reference Guide, a media kit and communication strategies and plans. The teams also supported special forest programs and presentations as needed.

2. Team Mission:

The Angeles National Forest tasked the National Wildland Fire Prevention and Education Teams with:

- Help Forest Service employees and the general public understand fire restrictions and their implementation.
- Inform local communities of fire restrictions.
- Assist with Forest closure plan and implementation.
- Achieve a successful fire prevention and education effort.

3. Key Message:

- Forest Use Restrictions, including closures, are implemented to protect the public and resources.

4. Objectives and Accomplishments

Objective 1: Assist Forest with standardization of fire danger levels, fire use restrictions and forest closure guidelines consistent among southern province.

Accomplishments

- Met with District Rangers, fire staff, prevent specialists, SO and dispatch personnel to discuss Fire Danger Levels, Fire Use Restrictions and closure guidelines.
- Compiled and compared Southern Province restrictions and closure plans.
- Prepared step-by-step standardization for forest closure and forest use restrictions.
- Developed/designed tri-fold brochure and rack cards consistent with other Southern California forests highlighting FDL, FUR and forest closure guidelines.
- Developed the Fire Restrictions Reference Guide
- Created a PowerPoint presentation on fire danger levels, fire use restrictions and PAL. It will be used as a “train the trainer” program.

Objective 2: Establish protocols to facilitate internal and external communications in relation to fire use restrictions and closures.

Accomplishments:

- Developed the fire communications strategy plan for communicating fire danger levels and forest use restriction information to internal and external audiences.
- Developed text for recorded telephone messages that address fire danger levels and restrictions.

- Developed a flow chart to augment decision making process changing fire danger levels and subsequent restrictions to internal and external audiences.

Objective 3: Assist with the integration of Project Activity Levels (PAL) and FDL's with forest use and closure.

Accomplishments:

- The PAL reference guide was developed, completed and distributed.
- Education materials have been produced. There is an information sheet for general parties, contracts, special used permits a "Pocket Guide".
- A PAL tutorial PowerPoint was developed.

Objective 4: Improve and enhance the Angeles National Forest web site information.

Accomplishments:

- Reviewed information that is currently on the forest's existing fire web site.
- Developed recommendations for the Forest – Fire Information Officer to be given to the webmaster to enhance the forest's fire web site.

Objective 5: Assist with development of fire prevention information handouts to accompany Adventure Pass purchases.

Accomplishments:

- Redesigned/developed and ordered the following brochures and handouts. Delivery is expected on or about October 15.

Tri-fold brochure – English

Tri-fold brochure – Spanish
Rack Card – two-sided Spanish/English

Folding Pocket Card

Table Tent
Allowable Activities Poster

- Developed “Know Before You Go” Banners on disk for each Forest.
- Objective 6:** Assist with the implementation of existing Forest Fire Prevention Plan.

Accomplishments:

- Met with Forest and District fire prevention staff to discuss the current fire prevention program.
- Gathered copies of all existing Forest and District wildfire prevention plans, emergency fire closure and forest use plans.
- Reviewed existing fire prevention plans and proposed recommendations.
- Assisted with the implementation of existing Forest Fire Prevention Plan.
- Examined Forest and District Prevention Plans; identified inconsistent messages and corrected.
- Developed and distributed prevention patrol orientation packages for patrol units.

- Objective 7:** Promote and increase the visibility of the Angeles National Forest Fire Prevention Staff.

Accomplishments:

- Consulted with the fire prevention staff in the supervisor’s Office and District Offices to solicit information and feedback on fire prevention product development.

- Worked closely with the FPT's on all the Districts to help coordinate and facilitate the prevention efforts of the Districts and Supervisor's Office staff.
- Assisted the Los Angeles River Ranger District with displays and materials at the Los Angeles County Fair.
- Included Fire Prevention Staff, District and SO, in the planning decision process of fire danger levels, fire use restrictions and forest closures.
- Copied the Prevention Programs for Districts.

5. Recommendations:

1. Website and Automated Answering System – Maintain website and automated answering system with the current fire danger level. The message should be clear, concise, and first. All links and/or forwarding messages should be readily understandable.

2. Fire Prevention Officer – Due to unfortunate circumstances the NFPET liaison has been on extended leave. The Ranger Districts and Teams unanimously agree that the position is vital to the success of these programs and recommend an acting Fire Prevention Officer be detailed to fill the vacancy.

3. PAL and FUR Confusion – Avoid the confusion of mixing the PAL message with the FUR messages. Permittee Activity Level involves operational activities, while FUR involves public and use and recreation.

4. Communications – Open communications with other forests is necessary to continue the coordinated messages being given to residents in the LA Basin Area.

5. Team Transition – An overlap team member is essential for a smooth transition between teams. The person provides continuity and can assist new team members learn their new tasks. Additionally, the Forest Fire information office and Fire Prevention Officer or designees should be in attendance at the transition meetings to provide two-way communications and avoid and overlap in communications efforts.

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APPENDIX