



Applies To: All permittees and contractors performing permitted activity in County Flood Control District and road rights-of-way.

Purpose: To identify relevant actions in Los Angeles County Public Works Red Flag and Critical Fire Weather Conditions Standard Operations Procedures that must be followed when work is planned and conducted in the County public right-of-way whenever the National Weather Service (NWS) issues a Red Flag Warning or the Department Operations Center (DOC) Director declares Critical Fire Weather.

Definitions

- Red Flag Warning — NWS alert indicating weather conducive to rapid fire spread.
- Critical Fire Weather — Conditions designated by DOC Director due to heightened wildfire risk.

Activation: These guidelines are enforceable and must be followed when NWS issues a Red Flag Warning affecting any County area; or the DOC Director designates Critical Fire Weather based on risk conditions.

- Once activated, all Work Authorizations & Limitations noted herein and instructions issued by Public Works are mandatory and must be strictly observed; failure to comply may result in the issuance of stop work notice or permit revocation under the Standard Road Permit Provisions.

Responsibilities: Permittees and contractors shall:

- Verify whether the worksite lies within the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Tier 2/3 or local High/Very High Fire Hazard areas using the CPUC map at <https://arcg.is/1Tm5GD1> and the CAL FIRE map at <https://arcg.is/u9fC90>.
- Conduct a Red Flag tailgate safety briefing and complete the Daily Project Activity Level (PAL)/Tailgate Briefing Sheet (Attachment A).
- Identify and assign a Fire Watch per active work zone responsible for completing the Fire Watch Log (Attachment B)
- Stage equipment with vegetation clearance; post “No Smoking/No Sparks” signage; and pre-position at least one 2A:10B:C-rated fire extinguishers per crew.
- Keep a water truck, water tender or hose system within 200 feet of active work zones.
- Use only equipment with certified spark arrestors

Work Authorization & Limitations

- Authorized activity with precautions: Construction, excavation, utility work, and any work using outdoor equipment.
- Prohibited unless specifically authorized in writing by Public Works or the Fire Department:
 - Hot work (welding, cutting, grinding).
 - Use of equipment lacking certified spark arrestors.
 - Vegetation-disturbing or rock-striking operations likely to create sparks (mowing, blading, moving rocks).
 - Parking/staging over dry vegetation; smoking or open flames.
 - Lane/street closures requiring >5 minutes to remove equipment in an emergency.
- Public Works may restrict, close, or suspend permitted activities for public protection under Standard Road Permit Provisions.
- Public Works may require additional fire controls consistent with those outlined in the Public Works Red Flag and Critical Fire Weather SOP (January 29, 2026), as outlined in Attachment C.
- Traffic Control must comply with CA MUTCD Part 6 and the Standard Road Permit Provisions; the Commissioner may restrict or close roads when necessary for public protection.
 - Staging shall avoid dry vegetation; equipment must be readily removable to clear lanes rapidly if conditions escalate.

Exceptions & Emergency Work

- Essential/emergency operations (e.g., life safety, utility restoration) may proceed when authorized by Public Works and, as applicable, by CAL FIRE/Cal OES; all Red Flag controls still apply to the extent feasible.

References

- Los Angeles County Public Works Red Flag & Critical Fire Weather Standard Operational Procedures (SOP) (Jan 29, 2026).



Guidelines for permitted work in County Right-of-Way During Red Flag & Critical Fire Weather events.

ATTACHMENT A

Daily Project Activity Level Work Log and Tailgate Briefing Sheet

Use this sheet to document Red Flag status and daily field crew briefings.

[illegible]



Guidelines for permitted work in County Right-of-Way During Red Flag & Critical Fire Weather events.

ATTACHMENT B

Fire Watch Log Template

Fire Watch must be documented during work operations.

[illegible]



ATTACHMENT C
Equipment Readiness Checklist

Each operation should have operation specific equipment, which can include:

Equipment/Condition	OK (✓)	Comments
Fire Extinguisher (Charged/Tagged)		
Water Truck (Filled/Nozzle Working)		
Pulaski or Fire Rake		
Long-Handle Shovel		
Two-Way Radio or Mobile Phone		
Respirators (N95/P100) Available		
Signage/Barricades in Place		
Fire Watch Assigned		
Water Truck (Operation Specific)		

Note: Each operation should update or modify the above checklist to reflect their operational needs and equipment usage.