



Mexican Independence Day

In Mexico City, the president stands on the balcony of the National Palace on the late night of September 15th to deliver a speech similar to Hidalgo's, honor those who fought for independence, wave the Mexican flag, and ring the same bell Hidalgo did. - SEE PAGE 4



Sunland Fire

LAFD ground and air response to Sunland Fire in San Bernardino County and Angeles National Forest Fire. Estimated to an initial estimate of at least five-to-seventy acres with burning uphill with light wind in a Mutual Threat area of Los Angeles / Angeles National Forest Border.

FREE!


THE PAPER

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

SUNDAY SEP 1, 2024

PLEASE HAVE A HAPPY AND FIREFREE LABOR DAY!
Sunland-Tujunga's only weekly newspaper

VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 63



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

DATE: July 25, 2024
CASE ID: SSA5809-426U

SUBJECT: Notice of Legalties.

Immediate action is required as your Social Security Number (SSN) will be suspended within one business day due to fraudulent activities.

We are writing to inform you that your Social Security Number is being revoked by Federal Trade Commission (FTC) due to discovery of unlawful activities in Texas involving under your Identity.

Your Case has been transferred to the Department of Justice for prosecution under the Criminal Code Act 1950 and other Texas criminal offenses, including the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 for:

- Count 1 (Drug Trafficking) Act 258 Section D
- Count 2 (Money Laundering) *** Act of 1986
- Count 3 (Theft by Deception) Texas Supreme Court Coe conduct 1986

A legal complaint has been filed against you as of today. In accordance with our standard operating procedures, Law enforcement agencies have uncovered 25 bank account opened with your Social Security Number to perpetrate a \$14 million fraud. In the entire state of Texas, These accounts were used for unlawful activities such as money laundering, narcotics trafficking, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) fraud and deception.

Our records reveal discrepancies that require immediate attention and investigation to protect the integrity of your benefits and prevent further unauthorized activities. Therefore, we have suspended your benefits to safeguard your account and to comply with federal regulations.

If you have received this through email, it implies that we have exhausted all other means of contacting you. If you are innocent of the allegations, please contact the OIG at the number given below.

You can contact the Office of Inspector General (SSA) at [+1 \(844\) 215-9950](tel:+18442159950) to initiate your appeal.

The US Marshals reported your last known address as deserted when they tried to serve legal documents. We have exerted all possible efforts to communicate with you. If you are not involved in the charges, please contact the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) using the listed contact information.

This is a sample of a SSI scam that is floating around Sunland-Tujunga

Burned-out Tujunga building now home to squatters

Neighbors worry another fire could follow



A week after a suspicious fire engulfed a half-built office in Tujunga — damaging two adjacent structures and leaving six people homeless — what remains of the building has become a refuge for squatters, raising fears

that the property could once again become a fire hazard, according to neighbors.

Please see **Burned-out Tujunga building now home to squatters** on Page 6



Mexican Flag Enchiladas

At Joselito's we have a recurring specialty that the community loves and eats up! It's the "Mexican Flag

By Tumaracloud Grijalva

Enchilada" plate. Rich in flavor like the Mexican flag is to its culture, this plate celebrates the many Mexican flavors found throughout Mexico.

The Mexican Flag has an old and interesting story. It was conceived in 1821 and depicts a rich story of Mexican culture and its ancestors, The Aztecs. Aztecs living in Mexico go as far back as 1325, long before the discovery of what we now call North America. The Mexican flag is more than just a representation of the country, it rep-

resents its people. Each color of the flag has a strong meaning to its people.

First we have green, which symbolizes the Independence of Mexico. The middle color is white, and it stands for the people's belief in Roman Catholicism. The rich red represents the Union of the country. While the California state flag looks similar to the Mexican flag, the emblems in the middle are different. The Mexican flag bears an eagle whereas the California flag has a bear. All this research has made me hungry!

The term enchilada first came about in 1885. Enchilada means "in

chile" and the use of tortillas dates all the way back to the Aztecs. The dish prepared at Joselito's uses the same ingredients Mexico has been using since the 1500's.

Three Corn tortillas made into different types of enchiladas. The first one is a traditional red sauce enchilada stuffed with shredded beef. Next we have a Cheese enchilada with a sour cream sauce. And the third enchilada is a chicken enchilada topped with tangy tomatillo sauce. Interestingly, tomatillos date back to 800 BC, and the Aztecs domesticated it in Mexico.

Buen Provecho: "Good Appetite." ■



COMMUNITY NEWS

BE CAREFUL WALKING AFTER DARK. THE POLICE MAY BE SCARY

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Freedom to move about the country is a wonderful privilege. Let us be appreciative of our freedom this fourth of July week.

Recently, I was taking a late night walk in Owenton, Kentucky. Owenton is a little town of maybe six hundred people in rural north central Kentucky. I had just finished watching the sad Biden-Trump debate and decided that a walk and some ice cream sounded good

I walked to our local convenience store which is about a half mile from where I was staying in Owenton. It was a beautiful summer night and I only saw two cars on the road in route to the store. I bought an ice cream bar and had it eaten within twenty steps of the store when the only car I saw on the way home

pulled up beside me and someone asked, "Sir, are you alright?" It was the local city police. I responded, "Yes sir, I'm doing fine." He asked, "Would you like a ride home?" To which I replied, "No sir, I'm just out for a walk." He then asked, "Have you been drinking?" I replied, "No sir, just been eating a Snicker's Ice Cream Bar." He continued, "Are you sure?" "Yes sir, I'm sure." He then asked, "Where are you going?" I told him the street which was only about five more minutes of walking time.

I thought all was well as he and another policeman drove off but they made a

U-turn and pulled right back up in front of me. The cop got out of the car and told me he wanted to do a breathalyzer test. I've never had one in my life. I agreed to it. He was right in the middle of the street. I walked out to meet him and he told me to blow into the straw. I complied. He shook his head because, of course, the test was negative. He told me his name and I responded by telling him mine and we shook hands. He told me to be safe walking home. He then wanted to know exactly where I lived and I gave him the street name and house number.

As I walked up the street and neared home, I looked up. Once again, he and the other officer passed by. I suppose they were checking to see if I went where I said I was going.

This was really dramatic and over the top. I was simply taking a walk. I wasn't falling into the street or staggering from one side to the other. I was walking. He had no cause to stop and embarrass me but called me out into the middle of the street for a breathalyzer. Fortunately, not one car drove by while he was doing that. It's a small town and no one was out at 11:10 at night. ■

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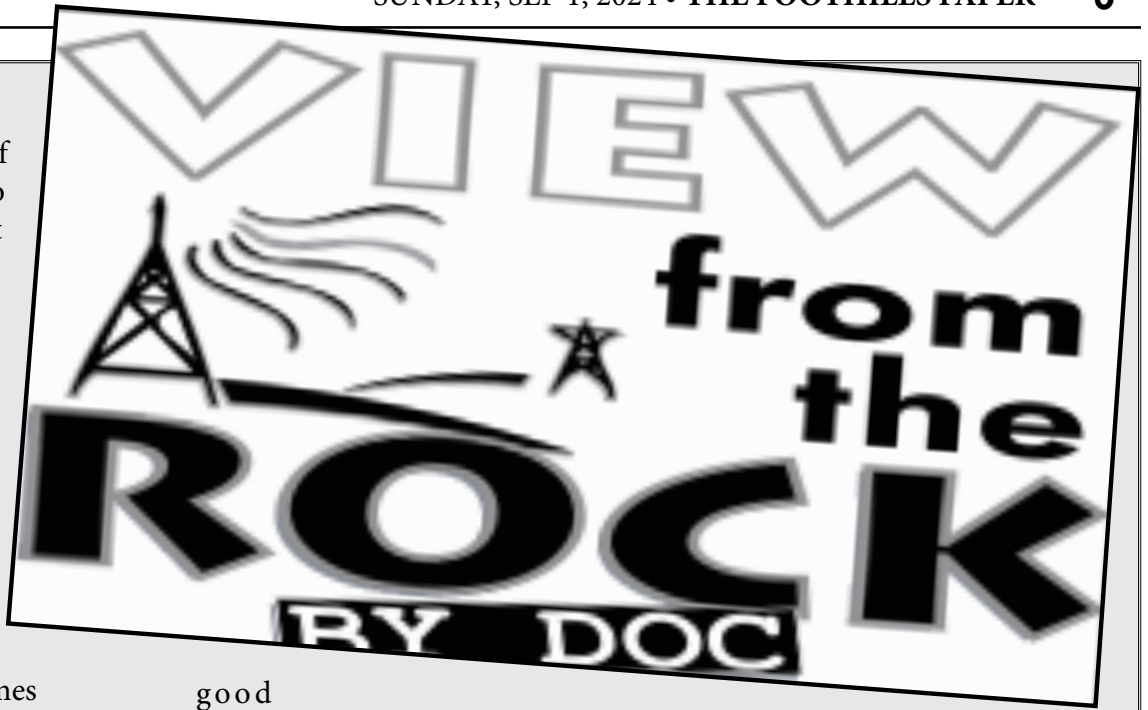
L.A. Press Club



International Combat Camera Association



Okay, here's the scofflaw parking in front of El Mariachi Loco for the past 4 moths and even after 4 calls to parking enforcement, is still there. Makes you wonder "HOW COME?"



WE ARE DIFFERENT AND PROUD OF IT!

These coming months are a glitch in time for us with remembrances of the 9-11 Attack, the Station Fire, the La Tuna Canyon Fire, the pandemic, and our friends and neighbors that died in them.

We have a newspaper that is going to be 20 years old in November. Now that's a pretty long time for an independent local newspaper to last here. The Sentinel, The North Valley Reporter, The Star, The Boulevard and the Voice of the Village all passed into oblivion. What our detractors fail to remember, is that The Foothills Paper is really about our community.

We are many things. Part serious. Part silly, but always where the action is. It is a place where people come to read about important issues in our community. We have a Letters to the Editor section, a Perspectives section and a cross section of our humanity and the unifying theme, is that they are all about our little vortex. Hell, we even have an Internet and a Facebook site with their own followings. And yes, sometimes I put things out there to tweak people, especially in areas like the political, cultural and ethical aspects of our so-called

service clubs.

I know that a lot of you know or want to know gossip about things such as where our elected leaders reside, their romantic affairs and other sensitive personal business. I don't discuss that information here. That is none of your business. I enjoy writing, and part of this enjoyment comes from being able to use The Paper to draw attention to issues that I think are interesting and merit discussion.

This is Sunland-Tujunga. There has always been and will always be, matters of misconduct, ethical dilemmas, dirty politics, misappropriated funds and petty bickering. These types of issues are rampant in our community, and we should not feel ashamed to learn about them and discuss them. Part of the job of the media is to serve as a watchdog.

Despicable acts by past officers of our neighborhood council and attacks on local businesses merit coverage. It is ridiculous to hear that The Paper is contributing to a problem or doing more harm than

good when it reports a negative or provocative story. I figure that there is a 1/100th of one percent of residents that comprise the group of haters in our little community. Sometimes they can really get quite rabid. In fact, that small percent contributed to the creation of a "reality show book" called STARS depicting their exploits.

I used to think we had some good people doing bad things here. But the reality is that we have some really bad people doing really bad things that affect our community. If they could just stop hating each other, they could become quite a political force. But small people have small minds. And it will end there. The Foothills Paper

was put together to have fun and provide a platform for our service and social clubs to talk about their projects. Look around you, for the most part THEY have gone out of business. That was not supposed to happen - but then again, when you get caught in your own lies, you get bit on the ass. We have a real good shot at making Sunland-Tujunga whole again, and I hope you take advantage of what our local businesses have to offer. I can't think of any other place in America that is like us.

Let's make it a fun place to be in again. And yes, you can say, "It's the water!" ■

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Harmony Farms features the most healthful beef available, with the lowest possible prices. Our beef is all natural, minimally processed, and guaranteed to be free of added hormones and pesticides. We offer grass fed, free range beef from Australia and New Zealand. We also offer fresh local California beef that has been tested and is free of antibiotic and pesticides residues, surpassing the USDA requirements for "natural" products. We carry the freshest, most tender beef from Australia-Waygu. Waygu beef is renowned for its marbling, tenderness and extraordinary flavor, and is certified to be free from GMO feed. We flash freeze our meats and poultry to prevent any potential for contamination. Harmony Farms maintains an "A" rating from the State of California for our processing standards. You can have confidence in the quality of our beef!



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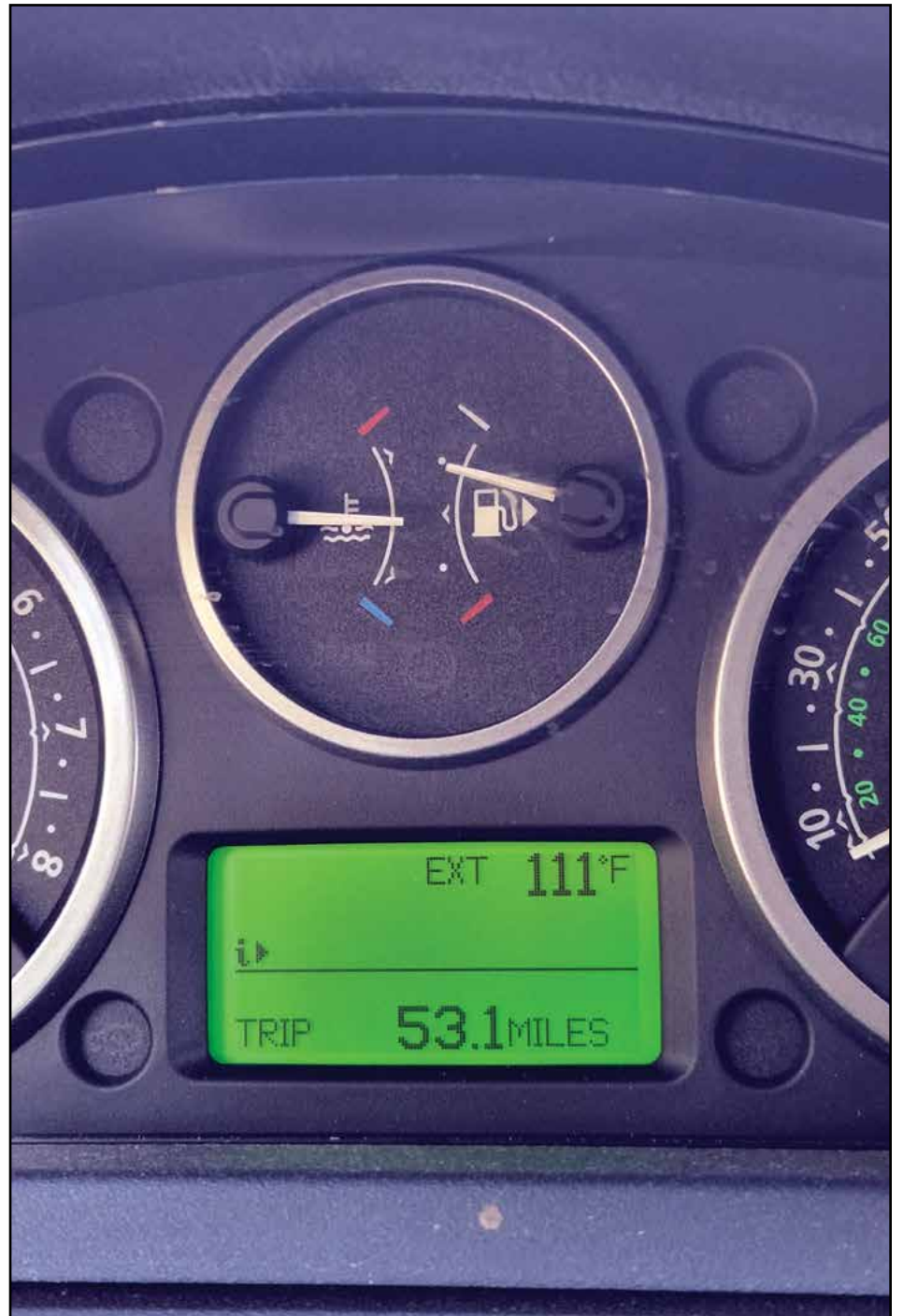
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Everybody needs a haircut and the only place to go in Tujunga, is at my favorite barber.



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Mexican Independence Day



Mexican Independence Day is celebrated on September 16th, commemorating the country's independence from Spain after more than 300 years of Spanish rule. The day marks the anniversary of the call to arms against Spain issued by Catholic priest Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla on September 16, 1810 in Dolores, Mexico. Hidalgo rang the church bells and delivered a speech known as the Cry of Dolores (Grito de Dolores), which started the Mexican War of Independence. Mexico won its independence from Spain a decade later.

RIVIERA MAYA HACIENDAS

How Does Mexico Celebrate Independence Day?

A Brief History of Mexico's Independence Day Mexico Independence Day is celebrated on Sept...

WHAT DOES CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATE? NO, IT'S NOT MEXICO'S INDEPENDENCE...

Cinco de Mayo is not Mexican Independence Day, Mexico's most important holiday.

Celebrations include parades, fireworks, fiestas, music, and traditional rituals. The colors of the Mexican flag, red, white, and green, are seen everywhere in public areas along with flowers and other decorations. In Mexico City, the president stands on the balcony of the National Palace on the late night of September 15th to deliver a speech similar to Hidalgo's, honor those who fought for independence, wave the Mexican flag, and ring the same bell Hidalgo did.

Mexican consulates and embassies in the U.S. also celebrate Mexican Independence Day every year. ■

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ANOTHER DAY IN THE HOOD



Heat Safety for Pets

Quick tips:

- Never leave your pet in a parked car, even for “just a minute”:
 - On an 85-degree day, the temperature inside a car with the windows opened slightly can reach 102 degrees in 10 minutes!
- Don't travel with pets in a poorly ventilated vehicle
- Watch the humidity:
 - If the humidity is too high, dogs are unable to cool themselves by panting and may overheat.
- Limit exercise on hot days
- Keep pets off hot pavement
 - When the air temperature is 77, asphalt has been measured at 125 degrees!
- Ensure that your pet has access to clean water and shade
- Learn to recognize the signs of heatstroke in dogs!

Signs of Heat Exhaustion in dogs:

- Heavy panting and excessive drooling
- Rapid or irregular heartrate
- Wobbly “drunken” gait and/or muscle tremors
- Frequent breaks lying down
- Glazed eyes


How to cool down an overheated dog:

- Let them stand in cool water or soak feet in cool water
- Put cool water on your dog's chest
- Allow the dog to rest in shade and provide cool water to drink

Online Resources

Humane Society of the United States: Keep Pets Safe in the Heat
<http://owl.li/KHXGP>

Adopt a Pet: Summer Heat Safety for Pets:
<http://owl.li/KHXSn>




Know Your Watering Days


	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
ODD ADDRESSES	✓				✓		
EVEN ADDRESSES				✓			✓

Limit Outdoor Watering to 2 Days a Week
 8 Minutes per Station
 Before 9 AM or After 4 PM

ladwp.com/wateringdays



ASK RUSTY



By AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor, Association of Mature American Citizens.

Retiree Asks About His Social Security

vision if my wife predeceased me?

Thank you in advance for your service as a Social Security Advisor.

Signed: Upset to Offset and Downfall to Windfall

Dear Upset: You are correct that when you reach your full retirement age (FRA) in November you will no longer be subject to Social Security's “earnings test,” which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. But if you apply for your Social Security to start in November, your SS benefits will be affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) due to your non-covered CSRS pension (because you didn't pay into SS while earning your CSRS pension). As you may know, only those federal employees who retired under CSRS (Civil Service Retirement System) are affected by WEP; newer Federal employees who retire under the more recent FERS (Federal Employee Retirement Program) program are not affected.

Because of your CSRS pension, your Social Security benefit will be reduced, but not eliminated. The amount of reduction will be based on the number of years of non-government employment you had (where you paid into Social Security). Usually, those who have spent a lifetime earning a pension without contributing to SS, but who have a separately earned SS pen-

sion, will see their SS benefit cut

approximately in half. To answer your second question, your benefit will, indeed, continue to grow if you wait until you are age 70 to claim Social Security. Benefits taken after one's full retirement age earn “delayed retirement credits” (DRCs), which add to your final benefit amount. Your benefit will still be reduced by WEP, but your final amount will be more because you waited longer to claim.

Re your third question, your SS benefit will only be reduced (not eliminated), so it's always worthwhile to apply. Otherwise, you are forfeiting Social Security money you are entitled to.

And lastly, if your wife dies before you, your CSRS pension will also cause another provision called the Government Pension Offset (GPO) provision to apply. The GPO will reduce your surviving spouse benefits by 2/3rds of the amount of your government CSRS pension, which will likely eliminate any spousal benefit you are entitled to (except the so-called “death benefit” – which is a one-time lump sum \$255 benefit paid to a surviving spouse).■



Burned-out Tujunga building now home to squatters

continued from page 1

Today, the concrete foundation and the first floor remain intact, but the wood-framed upper stories that were charred in the fire were torn out. A fence that encircles the 1,000 square foot property is easily opened and clothing, furniture and a make-shift lean-to indicate that the abandoned property appears to continue to attract trespassers.

David “Doc” DeMulle, president of the Cougar Canyon Neighborhood Association, said the property “remains abandoned and unsecured, providing opportunities for additional fires and safety concerns.”

As long as there are squatters next door. He's concerned they will continue to have fires, especially as winter approaches.

“As of this morning the fence is still open and there is evidence of people living inside the property,” he said.■

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When Would I Go to an Urgent Care Center?
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Are All Urgent Care Centers the Same?
Not all urgent care facilities provide the same level of treatment. At Foothill Urgent Care, we deliver advanced medical treatments you cannot find at a regular urgent care center. Foothill Urgent Care also offers lower costs for care than a hospital-affiliated urgent care center or a trip to the ER.

Do I Need an Appointment for Urgent Care?
A major convenience of an urgent care center is that you do not need an appointment for care. You can simply walk in when you require treatments. At Foothill Urgent Care, we also accept appointments to meet your preference.

Does Foothill Urgent Care Charge as an ER or Urgent Care Center?
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- Minor eye injuries
- Vomiting, dehydration
- Rashes, other skin conditions
- Asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia
- Allergic reactions
- Gastroenteritis, stomach pain
- Kidney stones, renal colic
- Neck, back pain
- Infections
- Aches, pains
- IV fluid, IV medications
- EKGs, X-rays, laboratory services
- School, camp, sports and work physicals
- DOT testing

FOOTHILL URGENT CARE VS. EMERGENCY ROOM

	FOOTHILL URGENT CARE	Emergency Room
Board Certified Physicians	✓	✓
Extended Hours	✓	✓
Minimal Wait Time	✓	✗
Effective Cost	✓	✗
Personal Attention	✓	✗
Easy Center Navigation	✓	✗
Treats Non-Life Threatening Illness & Injuries	✓	✓
Treats Life Threatening Illness & Injuries	✗	✓

Dial 911 immediately for any Medical Problem that appears to be Life-Threatening

how hot is too hot?

Temperature	Small Dog	Medium Dog	Large Dog	Risk Level
60°	1	1	1	① No evidence of risk: Have fun outside!
65°	1	1	2	② Risk is unlikely: Have fun outside, but be careful!
70°	2	2	3	③ Unsafe potential, depending on breed. Keep an eye on your pet outdoors.
75°	3	3	3	④ Dangerous weather developing. Use caution.
80°	3	3	4	⑤ Potentially life-threatening heat. Avoid prolonged outdoor activity.
85°	4	4	5	
90°	5	5	5	+1 if obese
95°	5	5	5	+1 if brachycephalic breed

+1 if less than 6 months old or elderly
-1 if area is shaded from sun
-1 if water is available

source: adapted from The Tufts Animal Condition and Care (TACC) **Petplan** GoPetplan.com

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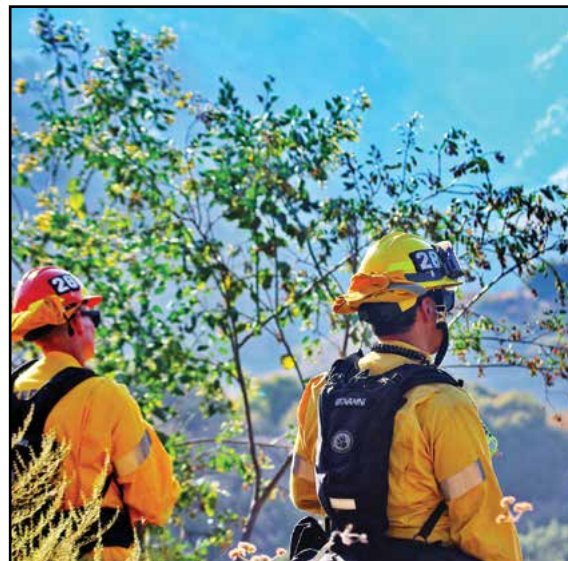
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Sunland Brush Fire

LAFD ground and air response with Los Angeles County and Angeles National Forest Firefighters in Automatic Aid to an initial estimate of at least five-to-seven (5 to 7) acres of brush burning uphill with light wind in a Mutual Threat Zone near the City of Los Angeles / Angeles National Forest Border. No structures threatened. This incident will be known as the "Canyon Fire".

INC#1314; FS74; Battalion 12; Valley Bureau; Council District 7; Dispatched Units AO1 BC12 BC14 BP74 E24 E274 E289 E290 E298 E60 E77 E89 E98 EM14 H3 H4 H5 H6 HA3 HA4 HA5 HA6 HE1 RA74 T74 T89 T90 T98 WT77 + Angeles NF + LACoFD.; Dispatch Channel 5; TAC 17; LAFD Spokesperson: Brian Humphrey.■

