

USDA Forest Service

San Bernardino National Forest

Front Country Ranger District



Date: January 12, 2005

San Bernardino National Forest
1209 Lytle Creek Road
Lytle Creek, California 92358

For Immediate Release

Contacts:

Battalion Chief Ken Kempter (909) 382-2879

Pile Burning near Angelus Oaks

With the passing of the recent, powerful storm burning piles of brush and debris in the Angelus Oaks area has started. People in the area are likely to see and smell smoke, as well as some flame for a few weeks.

“Employees from the San Bernardino National Forest will be on National Forest lands adjacent to the community of Angelus Oaks lighting piles as a part of the Angelus Oaks Community Protection Plan. Upon completion of this segment of fuel removal, the fire threat to Angelus Oaks will be drastically reduced with the upcoming fire season,” said Front Country District Ranger Gabe Garcia. “The thousands of piles will be systematically lit while under optimal wind and vegetative conditions.”

Forest Service burning operations are under control conditions and very critical to creating a buffer between the community of Angelus Oaks and the chaparral below the community. The piles are comprised of dense, flammable material. The burning efforts the Forest Service makes now while the weather is a precipitation cycle, patches of snow are on the ground and rain or snow is likely in the near future is important. In order to reduce the risk of summer season catastrophic wildfire in and around mountain communities, we must take every opportunity to reduce the brush and debris near communities. Winter burning is an important way to get rid of unwanted brush and debris.

For more information about San Bernardino National Forest burning operations please visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino/conditions/index.shtml> .

Daily updated information regarding San Bernardino National Forest burning can be obtained by calling (909) 383-5688.