ESRM Speaker's Series February 13 & 20
6-7:30pm 1360 Broome Library

Growing Fire Weather Threat in Southern California

A look at National Weather Service Oxnard Fire Weather Services and Partnerships

Presented By: David Gomberg
Fire Weather Program Manager
NOAA National Weather Service
Los Angeles/Oxnard Weather Forecast Office

Captain Brendan Ripley
Fire Behavior Analyst
Ventura County Fire

A third dry winter has led to extreme drought conditions across much of Southern California, which led to a recent Statewide drought declaration by the Governor. Vegetation fuel moisture levels are some of the driest we have ever seen in recent history, especially in Ventura County. As a result, the duration and severity of wildfire season will potentially be greater if sufficient late season rains do not materialize. In this presentation, Dave Gomberg from the National Weather Service in Oxnard will be teaming up with Captain Brendan Ripley of Ventura County Fire to review the Springs Fire from 2013 and potential fire weather concerns in the year ahead. They will also discuss the importance of fire weather services and partnerships in helping to assist critical agency decision making as well as minimizing the potential loss of life and property.

May 3, 2013 – Springs Fire from NWS Oxnard
Photo Credit: Scott Sukup, NWS Oxnard

Drought and Post Fire Flash Floods and Debris Flows

A look at two current significant hydrologic impacts in Southern California

Presented By: Jayme Laber
Senior Service Hydrologist
NOAA National Weather Service
Los Angeles/Oxnard Weather Forecast Office

A third dry winter has led to extreme drought conditions across much of Southern California, which led to a recent Statewide drought declaration by the Governor. The dry conditions also have contributed to an extreme wildfire potential across Southern California. Recent fires that have burned are at higher risk of flash flooding and debris flows. In this presentation, Jayme Laber from the National Weather Service in Oxnard will discuss the current drought conditions and impacts across Southern California as well as explain the post fire flash flood and debris flow risks from recent burned areas. In addition, a summary of the flash flood and debris flow early warning system for recently burned areas in Southern California will be explained.

February 6, 2010 – Debris Flow in La Canada Flintridge below the Station Burn Area
Photo Credit: Robert Leeper, USGS