

# CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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**RELEASE**  
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## Thousands of Lightning Strikes Cause Wildfires in Northern California

**Sacramento-** More than 7,000 lightning strikes hit the ground in Northern California in the past 24 hours sparking hundreds of small wildfires. Firefighters from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) have been fighting fire in the Sierra and foothills from Amador County north to the Oregon border and west to Humboldt County. They have managed to keep all of these fires relatively small and damage has been minimal. No structures have been destroyed.

“Fortunately most of these lightning strikes have come with moisture,” said Rich Green, Assistant Deputy Director of Fire Protection for CDF. “Our firefighters are busy out there but so far we’ve had the resources we need to catch most of these fires in initial attack and keep them small.”

CDF crews will remain in the locations that have been hit by lightning for the next few days, mopping up the burn areas. CDF pilots will also fly reconnaissance over the area since lightning can strike a tree and smolder inside for days before it actually catches the tree on fire. Typically, lightning causes about 5% of the fires faced by CDF crews every year.

Landowners are advised to look over their property after the lightning has passed and immediately report any fires they may find.

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