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# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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## **Dry Lightning Predicted for Central Coast and Southern California CAL FIRE Increases Staffing**

**Sacramento** – The National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning for portions of the Central Coast down to Southern California due to predicted dry lightning and gusty winds. The risk of additional dry lightning strikes has prompted CAL FIRE to increase its staffing in the areas affected. The increase in personnel includes staffing reserve fire engines and additional inmate fire crews and bulldozers. The Red Flag Warning is expected to remain in effect until 11 p.m. tonight, when scattered showers are likely.

Two weeks ago, the state was pummeled by a series of dry lightning thunderstorms that resulted in over 50,000 lightning strikes, sparking approximately 200 wildfires, which burned nearly 70,000 acres. The increased fire activity kept firefighters busy for over a week and served as a reminder of how dry conditions are across the state.

CAL FIRE urges Californians to remain extra fire safe and help prevent new fires. A few helpful reminders and safety tips include:

- Any mowing or weed eating should be done before 10 a.m. (and NEVER during extremely dry conditions).
- Never use lawn mowers in dry vegetation.
- Ensure campfires are permitted and, if so, be sure to extinguish them completely when done
- Never pull your vehicle over in tall dry grass

For more ways to help prevent wildfires visit [www.ReadyForWildfire.org](http://www.ReadyForWildfire.org) or [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov).

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