

---

# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



**CONTACT:** Daniel Berlant  
(916) 651-FIRE (3473)

**RELEASE**  
**DATE:** November 30, 2011

Julie Hutchinson  
(951) 377-8380

## **CAL FIRE Steps Up Precautions Due to Forecasted Winds**

**Sacramento** – In response to a strong wind event forecasted for California, CAL FIRE has increased its staffing and fire equipment throughout the state. High winds along with low humidity are expected over much of the state beginning this evening and continuing for the next few days. Winds in some areas are expected to have gusts in excess of 60 mph. This weather event will significantly increase the wildfire threat in wind prone areas including the Sierras, the East Bay Hills, the Central Coast, and throughout Southern California.

“The recent devastating wildland fire in Reno, Nevada is a reminder that fires can burn during the winter months even when temperatures are low,” said Chief Ken Pimlott, CAL FIRE director. “With the strong winds forecasted the fire danger will increase in many areas and we will have extra firefighters on duty so that we can respond to any new wildfires that may ignite.”

CAL FIRE along with other fire agencies has increased their preparedness by staffing additional state wildland fire engines, dozers, fire crews, and aircraft. These state resources will be positioned throughout the state to allow for rapid response into communities and watershed areas that may be affected by a fast moving wildfire. The increased staffing includes the county fire departments of Ventura, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Kern and Orange, who CAL FIRE contracts with for fire protection of State Responsibility Areas.

Residents are encouraged to exercise extreme caution when in or near the wildland or open areas to prevent a fire. It is important that everyone monitor the weather and be on the lookout for fires. If fires occur in the area be prepared to follow all instructions of fire and law enforcement officials if an evacuation is ordered. Winds of the forecasted velocity can cause conditions to change rapidly and the public is encouraged to review “Ready, Set, Go” procedures at [www.ReadyForWildfire.org](http://www.ReadyForWildfire.org). Each person and family should insure that they are “Set” for a potential emergency situation and prepared to activate the “Go” (evacuation) portion in a calm and safe manner.

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).

###