
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Dry Lightning Raises Northern California Fire Danger CAL FIRE Increases Staffing

Sacramento – CAL FIRE has increased staffing due to forecasted dry lightning and strong winds throughout much of northern California. Monsoonal moisture will reach into the north state, bringing a chance of mountain thunderstorms through next week. The lightning created by this event will initially occur without precipitation, greatly increasing the chances of new wildfires. Gusty thunderstorm winds have the potential to rapidly spread any new lightning fires.

Ahead of today's predicted dry lightning, CAL FIRE staffed its reserve fire engines, placed additional fire crews and bulldozers available 24 hours a day and has added additional staffing in its emergency command centers.

This year, CAL FIRE has responded to over 2,700 wildfires, an increase of almost 1,000 compared to the average for the same time period. "Due to the conditions we are experiencing this year, it is critical that we are prepared for any possible outcome from this red flag event," said Chief Ken Pimlott, CAL FIRE director. "We are prepared, and we ask that the residents and visitors of California do their part to prevent any new wildfires."

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 or windy 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 prepare for wildfires visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org or www.fire.ca.gov.

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