

From the CAL FIRE Information Center, I'm Scott McLean with the CAL FIRE Report for Monday, November 4th, 2019.

This last week 212 new wildfires started in California, of which 183 were within CAL FIRE's jurisdiction.

As you can see, the amount of fires we have had this year to date is 5,244, compared to last year at 5,355. Even though the difference is slight there is a huge difference in the acreage, 126,069 acres this year to date compared to 632,701 in 2018, same period of time.

Switching over to our statewide fire map, you can see that firefighters were involved in battling 9 significant wildfires across the state, and only 3 of those fires were within CAL FIRE jurisdiction.

With all the fire activity over the last week California has had help from agencies from 11 other states within our nation. We greatly appreciate the help from our firefighting brothers and sisters from Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and New Mexico.

Let's take a closer look at the fire activity

The Ranch Fire started on November 3rd and is burning in Tehama County south west of Red Bluff is 550 acres and 10% contained. Again burning in an inaccessible area.

Next, we have The Kincade Fire that is burning in Sonoma County, it is at 77,758 acres and 80% contained, Firefighters were able to make great progress after the wind events of last week.

Burning in Ventura county we have The Maria Fire. Here is Captain Steve Kaufman from Venture County Fire with the latest update. Video

And some notable fires from last week that are now contained. The Burris Fire in Mendocino County was contained over the weekend at 703 acres

And the Easy Fire in Ventura County burned 1,806 acres is now 100% contained as of November 2nd.

Even though we are in November with mild weather temps, we are still not out of the woods with the weather, on average we are warmer than normal this time of year with low humidity and the potential for more winds. Weather forecasts are telling us to expect 2 more weeks of dry weather.

I want to end today's episode talking about drones. Drones are a great tool when they are used correctly, but over an active fire is not the time nor the place to fly the drones. For that matter, never over a fire area, even during mop up unless you have authorization to do so. That authorization would have to come from the fire personnel assigned to that incident. When a drone is flying over a fire we must ground our aircraft for the safety of our pilots and our crews on the ground. Our planes and helicopters are operating just a couple hundred feet above the ground leaving no room to maneuver if a drone should appear. The drone pilots are putting the firefighting aircraft pilots at risk as well as those on the ground whether they be firefighters or the public. When aircraft are grounded by illegal drone flights it denies firefighters the resources they need to help save lives and property. It is illegal for unauthorized drones to be flown within the fire perimeter and in a lot of cases even outside the fire perimeter. If you fly, we can't and we won't.

Thank you for joining us today, for more info you can go to our webpage at www.fire.ca.gov.