

# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

## California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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### **CAL FIRE urges caution this Memorial Day Weekend** Public asked to take steps to prevent new fires and stay safe

**Sacramento** – With most of California expecting mild weather conditions over the holiday weekend, CAL FIRE urges everyone to be cautious and not let their guard down. To keep everyone safe while planning to recreate outdoors for the Memorial Day weekend, CAL FIRE is asking the public to take steps to prevent sparking a new wildfire.

Click to tweet - [. @CAL\\_FIRE increases fire staffing for #MemorialDayWeekend. http://ctt.ec/fAkYc+](https://twitter.com/CAL_FIRE/status/864123456789012345)

“Although most of California is no longer experiencing drought conditions, the normal warm and dry climate of California means that it will always be susceptible to wildfires,” said Chief Ken Pimlott, CAL FIRE director. “All of us need to do our part to ensure we are being safe when working or recreating outdoors by taking precautions to avoid sparking a wildfire.”

Since January 1, CAL FIRE has responded to over 1,000 wildfires that have burned nearly 15,000 acres. Californians are encouraged to be vigilant and remember that One Less Spark means One Less Wildfire.

#### **Camping:**

- Obtain a campfire permit ([www.PreventWildfireCA.org](http://www.PreventWildfireCA.org))
- Check for local fire restrictions
- Clear away grass, leaves and other debris within a 10-foot perimeter of any campfire
- Have a responsible person in attendance at all times
- Ensure all campfires are completely extinguished before leaving
- When barbecuing, never leave the grill unattended

#### **Vehicle**

- Ensure your vehicle is properly maintained with nothing dragging on the ground
- When towing, make sure trailer chains are properly secured
- Never drive or pull over into dry grass

Fire is not the only danger that can occur in the outdoors, as water drownings also increase dramatically during this holiday weekend. As the snowpack continues to melt, the rivers and lakes will run fast and cold, making them very dangerous. Following a few simple steps could save someone’s life.

**In the Water:**

- Always wear a life jacket!
- Children should always be supervised by a responsible adult
- Never swim alone
- Be cautious of rivers and waterways with rapid currents
- Drinking and swimming can be just as dangerous as drinking and driving

For more ways to be safe this holiday, visit [www.ReadyforWildfire.org](http://www.ReadyforWildfire.org) or [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov).

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**Media Notes:**

Video: CAL FIRE Campfire Safety Video -  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8kFVSOjOG0>