

From the CAL FIRE Information Center, I'm Scott McLean with the CAL FIRE Report for Monday, August 19, 2019.

California's firefighters were extremely busy this week as the state saw a rash of new wildfires ignite across the state. In total, 266 new wildfires broke out last week, 210 of which were within CAL FIRE's jurisdiction, and 14 of those grew into significant incidents. You can see on our statewide fire map, though, that thanks to the hard work by firefighters, only 1 of those large fires still remain active today.

Let's take a closer look at that active fire. It's known as the Gaines Fire and it started on Friday in the Bear Valley area in Mariposa County. The Gaines Fire grew to 1,300 acres very rapidly, threatening structures and leading to evacuation warnings in the surrounding areas. As of this morning, firefighters have it 75% contained as they continue to work diligently to reach full containment.

Next up, we'll take a look at a few of the largest of the contained fires from last week. We'll start with a couple of fires that started way down south along the Mexico border. First, the Border 8 Fire which actually started on Wednesday the 14th in Mexico near the city of Tacate, just southeast of San Diego County. While the Border 8 Fire never crossed into the US, CAL FIRE resources were sent into Mexico for a day to assist in keeping it from crossing the border. The Border 8 Fire was fully contained on Saturday at just over 1,500 acres.

And just a day later, on Thursday the 15th, the Border 9 Fire started in San Diego County southeast of Dulzura. The Border 9 Fire grew to 80 acres in total, and firefighters reached full containment on Friday.

Next we'll move to Mariposa County where the Hunter also started on Thursday east of Snelling. The Hunter Fire grew to 423 acres in total before firefighters fully contained it on Friday morning.

And another fire that started on Thursday, this time in Shasta County, the Cottage Fire sparked northeast of Anderson. The Cottage Fire started out as three separate fires being managed as a single incident, but during the initial stages of the fire, two of those fires burned toward each other and actually merged into one fire. Those fires led to evacuations, but firefighters were able to fully contain the Cottage Fire before any structures were damaged. The Cottage Fire was fully contained on Saturday at 156 acres.

Last week saw some very high temperatures across much of the state for most of the week. But we finally did receive some relief on Sunday as a cooling trend began beginning us closer to seasonal normals. Thankfully that trend is expected to continue into a good portion of this week, but as we enter into the weekend, temperatures are forecast to heat back up into the 90s and even the 100s in some areas.

We're also expecting some gusty winds in the Sacramento Valley and the surrounding foothills, as well as in Southern California along the central coast starting on Thursday, which will continue to dry out vegetation and could push any new fires that start. So I ask of you to please be careful out there.

Last week's drastic increase in large fire activity was a stark reminder of the importance to be prepared to evacuate this time of year. As we move from the dry summer months into the dry AND windy fall months, the potential for evacuations in your community will only increase. Remember to keep a pair of good shoes and a flashlight near your bed at all times. Evacuations can and do often happen in the middle of the night, so having these simple items near your bed can save you critical time in evacuating your family. Also, keep your car gassed up and ready to go at all times. You don't want your car to run out of gas while you are evacuating because you put off filling up your tank. A disabled vehicle during an evacuation puts your family in danger, as well as blocking the road for other families and first responders during a hectic time. And finally, keep a copy of your emergency contacts in your emergency supply kit. You can and should program them into your phone, or at the very least keep a copy near your phone, but what happens if you unable to grab your phone in time during an evacuation, or your battery dies? You want to have that backup copy of numbers so that you can check in with your family, and let your out of area contacts know you are okay.

For more tips on how you can get ready to evacuate when wildfire strikes, visit our website at [Ready For Wildfire .org](http://ReadyForWildfire.org).

And that's the latest on the fire situation in California. I'm Scott McLean, stay safe.