

From the CAL FIRE Information Center, I'm Scott McLean with a special CAL FIRE Report for Friday, October 11, 2019.

Fire activity definitely picked up over the past 24 hours or so, with just under a dozen significant fires starting since yesterday morning. Several of those fires have been contained, but 6 of those fires do still remain active.

Two of the largest and most destructive of those fires are burning in Southern California. The first of those two is the Saddleridge Fire in LA County. The Saddleridge Fire started last night in Sylmar amid a Santa Ana wind event that is still ongoing as of this broadcast. The wind has fanned the Saddleridge Fire and allowed it to jump highway 210 and 5 and just littering the area with spot fires. According to the Los Angeles County Fire Department, as of this afternoon the Saddleridge Fire is over 7,500 acres and is 13% contained. The Saddleridge Fire has destroyed at least 25 structures. Sadly one fatality has also been reported as a civilian in the fire area suffered cardiac arrest and died in the hospital. There are numerous evacuations in place, and a full list of those communities can be found on the Los Angeles Fire Department's website at lafd.org.

And fanned by that same Santa Ana Wind event, we also have the Sandalwood Fire in Riverside County, which started yesterday afternoon in the community of Calimesa. The Sandalwood Fire spread very rapidly, and within less than 24 hours has grown to over 800 acres, destroying a total of 76 structures and damaging others. Evacuations are in place, again, for several communities in the area. You can find more information on those evacuations at rvcfire.org.

There are also several other significant fires of note that we will go over briefly. In Riverside County again, we have the Wolf Fire south of Banning. The Wolf Fire is now 75 acres and 50% contained. Some evacuation warnings are still in place for the Wolf Fire.

And another one in Riverside County, the Ricki Fire started in Moreno Valley yesterday. The Ricki Fire is 350 acres and 60% contained.

In Ventura County, we have the Wendy Fire in Newbury Park. The Wendy Fire is 91 acres and 50% contained.

And finally, the US Forest Service is battling the Caples Fire in the El Dorado National Forest. The Caples Fire is 2,143 acres and 20% contained as of the El Dorado National Forest's latest information.

Earlier this morning, all of the Red Flag Warnings in Northern California were lifted, which is great news. But in Southern California, where we saw the majority of the fire activity yesterday and today, several counties remain under an elevated fire risk through the rest of today. As always, we'll continue to monitor these areas very closely and are ready to respond.

But with that said, we need your help as well. The fall months are historically the most destructive months for fire activity. Now is not the time for complacency. When a Red Flag Warning or Fire Weather Watch is issued in your area, regardless of the time of year, you need to not only take it very seriously but treat it as a cue to get ready to Go at a moment's notice. Pack your emergency supply kit in your vehicle. Start going through your home and checking off items on your Family's evacuation plan checklist, and review your evacuation plan with your family and ensure you have not just one way to get out of your community, but multiple ways. During critical fire weather, as we've seen very clearly over

the past couple of days, fires move quickly. When an evacuation order is declared, you may only have minutes to react. You need to have a plan ahead of time.

For the latest information on the wildfires in California, visit [fire.ca.gov](https://www.fire.ca.gov), and to learn more about what you can do to be ready to Go, visit our website at [ReadyForWildfire.org](https://www.ReadyForWildfire.org).