

From the CAL FIRE Information Center, I'm Scott McLean with the CAL FIRE Report for Monday, October 28, 2019.

Over the past week, California has had a dramatic increase in fire activity due in large part to critical fire weather conditions across much of the state from dangerously high winds coupled with extremely low humidity. Hundreds of thousands have been evacuated over the past few days due to these fires and the extreme speed that they've been growing. Today, over 200,000 people remain evacuated as firefighters from all across California, including local, state, and federal fire departments, work together around the clock to keep these blazes at bay.

You can see on our statewide fire map that there are currently 16 significant fires burning across the state. Keep in mind that these are just the larger fires – firefighters have also contended with hundreds of smaller fires over the past week that were thankfully kept under 10 acres.

We'll move right into one of the largest, most destructive, and most active fires that's been making headlines all weekend – the Kincade Fire in Sonoma County. The Kincade Fire is burning in the steep, hilly terrain east of highway 101. The extreme fire behavior on the Kincade Fire due to those gusty winds I mentioned have led to the evacuation of over 180,000 residents in surrounding communities. So far there have thankfully been no civilians killed or injured by the fire, but over 70,000 homes remain threatened as firefighters continue to work to find opportunities to construct containment lines. As of the latest update from the Kincade Fire, it is currently just over 66,000 acres and 5% contained.

And this morning in Los Angeles County, the Getty Fire started west of the 405 near the city of Los Angeles, leading to numerous evacuations in the area. The Getty Fire continues to be a very dynamic fire threatening over 10,000 structures. According to the Los Angeles City Fire Department, the Getty Fire is currently over 500 acres.

Next, we have the Tick Fire, also in Los Angeles County. The Tick Fire started on Thursday in Canyon Country. Initially, evacuations were ordered in multiple areas due to the Tick Fire, but as of this morning the last of those evacuations have been lifted. According to the Los Angeles County Fire Department, the Tick Fire is currently just over 4,600 and 70% contained as over 500 firefighters continue to work toward full containment.

And finally, the Glencove Fire started yesterday in Solano County south of Vallejo. Again, fanned by those strong winds, the Glencove Fire grew very rapidly, shutting down parts of I-80 and leading to evacuations in the surrounding communities. Fortunately, evacuations have been since been lifted as firefighters continue to work toward full containment.

In addition to these fires, there are numerous other large wildfires burning across the state – 16 in total, as I mentioned earlier. You can always find the latest by visiting our website at Fire.ca.gov, and clicking on the Incident Information graphic near the top of the page.

So let's take a look now at what the next week of weather has in store for us. Unfortunately, despite seeing a small break in wind activity in northern California today, the gusty winds aren't gone just yet. We're forecast to see another round of wind activity starting tonight and into Wednesday for much of Northern California. While the wind speeds aren't expected to be quite as strong as we saw over the weekend, the low humidity is also expected to continue, which is not only going to mean we could see

new large fires, but it will also make the current fires that much more challenging for firefighters to battle.

And in Southern California, we are forecast to also see similar windy conditions along with single digit humidity on Wednesday and Thursday spanning from the Santa Barbara area all the way down to San Diego county.

As we head into the weekend, we should finally see a decrease in the wind activity, but humidity will continue to remain unseasonably low across the state.

As you've no doubt noticed, the trend on these wind-driven fires that we're seeing is rapid, dynamic growth leading to evacuations. When Critical Fire Weather is occurring in your area, it is vital that you are ready to Go. Last year around this time, we were dealing with the devastating Camp Fire. In 2017, we had the October Fire Siege. This is unfortunately now California's normal, and it's absolutely vital that everybody in the state be prepared during weather events like this one, especially this time of year. When Critical Fire Weather is forecast, have that Evacuation Kit ready to grab and go, and a full tank of gas in your vehicle.

Look at this footage – this family is evacuating while a fire is encroaching on their neighborhood during last week's Tick Fire. This is the reality of how fast and how hectic these situations can be. This is not the time to be figuring out your plan. Plan now so you and your family can leave quickly and safely. I cannot stress that enough.

And also important is to make sure you stay informed during a Critical Fire Weather event. Sign up for any alert systems that your county may offer. Keep an eye on the news and your news feeds so you can be aware of any breaking fires that might move into your area. And follow your community's fire department, police department, and other emergency officials on social media to get continuous updates on the situation. And when new verified information becomes available, share it with your neighbors, friends and social media networks to help get the word out.

To learn more about California's fire situation as it continues to develop, please be sure to visit our website at fire.ca.gov.

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