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# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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## Strong Winds Prompt CAL FIRE to Increase Staffing Public Urged to be Cautious

**Sacramento** – With gusty dry winds forecast for Southern California, CAL FIRE has increased its staffing and is urging the public to be extra cautious. The Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning throughout much of Southern California starting Thursday night for high winds with gusts of 60 mph along with low humidity lasting through Saturday.

“Though much of Northern and Central California have received significant rain, Southern California remains very dry and the potential for large fires still exists,” said Chief Ken Pimlott, CAL FIRE director. “We will have extra firefighters and equipment available to respond to new wildfires during this wind event, but we are reminding residents to be extremely cautious while outdoors in order to help prevent accidental wildfires from starting.”

CAL FIRE has increased its preparedness by staffing additional fire engines, bulldozers, fire crews, and aircraft. These state resources will be positioned strategically to allow for rapid response into communities and watershed areas that may be affected by a fast moving wildfire. The increased staffing includes the county fire departments of Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Ventura, and Orange, who CAL FIRE contracts with for fire protection of State Responsibility Area.

CAL FIRE urges everyone to exercise extreme caution when in or near the wildland or open areas to prevent a fire. A few helpful reminders and safety tips include:

- Don't mow or weed eat dry grass on windy days
- Ensure campfires are allowed, and if so, be sure to extinguish them completely
- Target shoot only in approved areas, use lead ammunition only, and never at metal targets
- Be extra careful with all powered equipment outdoors including chainsaws, tractors and welders
- Never burn landscape debris like leaves or branches on NO Burn Days or when its windy

The public is encouraged to review “Ready, Set, Go” procedures when it comes to preparing for a wildfire at [www.ReadyForWildfire.org](http://www.ReadyForWildfire.org).

For more ways to help prevent and prepare for wildfires: [ReadyForWildfire.org](http://ReadyForWildfire.org) or [fire.ca.gov](http://fire.ca.gov).

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