

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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CAL FIRE Serves Employee Disciplinary Actions

Sacramento – As part of the CAL FIRE’s ongoing effort to promote a safe and respectful workplace, the Department announced today that it has taken disciplinary action against 29 employees after an investigation found that they violated professional standards by drinking alcohol while on duty or failed to report inappropriate activity.

Of these employees, 17 will be terminated, and the 12 will be suspended. The investigation, launched in September 2017, focused on an incident at the CAL FIRE Training Center near Lone. The disciplinary action announced today follows the previous termination of 14 employees related to this incident. With the additional disciplinary actions taken this week, the investigation will be closed.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Director Ken Pimlott said CAL FIRE has a zero-tolerance policy and does not condone these types of actions by employees.

“We expect the highest level of standards from our employees. These action are not representative of a culture that CAL FIRE will be a part of, now or in the future,” Pimlott said. “CAL FIRE Training Center staff along with the Professional Standards Program took immediate action on the report of the activity and should be commended.”

The department instituted a Professional Standards Program in 2016 to provide consistent and standardized guidance to all CAL FIRE employees in the areas of hiring, employee behavior, investigations, and progressive discipline.

The Professional Standards Program's vision is to create a well-trained and diverse workforce that cultivates a culture of effective recruitment and exemplary professional conduct throughout the organization. Our mission is to provide consistent and standardized guidance to all CAL FIRE employees, including Managers, Supervisors, and future leaders in the areas of hiring, on-boarding, employee behavior, leadership, investigations, and progressive discipline.

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