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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 National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning for much of Southern California due to Santa Anas and low humidity. Starting this afternoon high winds with gusts of 60 mph are expected from the south coast of Santa Barbara and the Grapevine and moving down into the LA Basin through Thursday

“Even though it’s mid-April, the drought has caused conditions to be months drier than they normal would,” said Chief Dale Hutchinson, CAL FIRE southern region chief. “We 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 sparking a wildfire.”

CAL FIRE has increased its preparedness by staffing additional fire engines, bulldozers, fire crews, and aircraft. CAL FIRE has also strategically positioned additional fire engines from Northern California to Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. The increased staffing also includes the county fire departments of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles, 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 sparking a fire. One Less Spark, means One Less Wildfire. A few helpful reminders and safety tips include:

- Don’t mow or trim dry grass with powered equipment on windy days
- Ensure campfires are allowed, and if so, be sure to extinguish them completely
- 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. Target shoot only in approved areas, use lead ammunition only, and never at metal targets

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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