

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



CONTACT: Duty Information Officer
(916) 651-FIRE (3473)
[@CALFIRE_PIO](https://twitter.com/CALFIRE_PIO)

RELEASE October 20,
DATE: 2017

CAL FIRE Mobilizing for Santa Ana Winds

SACRAMENTO – After one of the deadliest and most destructive weeks in California’s history, firefighters are preparing for another significant wind event in Southern California. The National Weather service has issued several Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches across Southern California starting this weekend through early next week due to gusty winds, low humidity and high temperatures. In response to these anticipated conditions, CAL FIRE is increasing its staffing levels with additional firefighters, fire engines, fire crews, and aircraft to respond to any new wildfires.

“This is traditionally the time of year when we see these strong Santa Ana winds,” said Chief Ken Pimlott, director of CAL FIRE. “and with an increased risk for wildfires, our firefighters are ready. Not only do we have state, federal and local fire resources, but we have additional military aircraft on the ready. Firefighters from other states, as well as Australia, are here and ready to help in case a new wildfire ignites.”

The weather warnings stretch from Santa Barbara, San Diego, Orange, Riverside, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties. The winds are expected to reach gusts of up to 50 mph, along with record breaking heat, fire danger in these areas is high. It is vital that the public use caution when outside and avoid activities that may spark a new fire. Any new fires can spread rapidly under these types of weather conditions.

“Outdoor activities that may spark a fire should be avoided,” said Chief Thom Porter, CAL FIRE’s Southern Region Chief. “It is important that the public be vigilant and follow the Ready, Set, Go action items, especially under these types of conditions where fires move very fast.”

For more fire preventions tips and evacuation steps visit: ReadyForWildfire.org

###