

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Amador-El Dorado-Sacramento Unit

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CAL FIRE Geared Up for Fire Season

Camino – With the drier than normal conditions, the Amador-El Dorado-Sacramento Unit (AEU) of CAL FIRE has geared up for fire season beginning with the staffing of four engines on Monday April 29. As we continue to work towards “peak” staffing levels, CAL FIRE AEU is currently in the second of three scheduled firefighter re-hire academy’s with four additional engines to be staffed on Monday May 13, 2013. This year’s early start to wildfire season is the result of the very dry conditions, a combination of a lack of rain and an earlier than normal heat wave. Statewide, CAL FIRE crews have already responded to over 60% more wildland fires than normal for this time of year. According to the State’s final snow survey on May 2nd, the statewide snowpack water content is only 17 percent of normal which has set the stage for an already busy season.

Unit Chief Kelly Keenan states “I am very confident that my personnel can handle this increased fire threat. We are prepared all year long for emergencies. We are also preparing for the increased wildland fire threat by training more firefighters and staffing additional fire equipment. We are quickly moving into a period of increased risk for wildfires as temperatures are on the rise and humidity’s are dropping. Residents need to take greater care outdoors with their activities as a result of the increased fire threat” adds Chief Keenan.

For more information on what you can do to prepare for fire season, please visit CAL FIRE’s web site at www.fire.ca.gov or www.ReadyForWildfire.org or call 530-644-2345, for free brochures.

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