

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



CONTACT: Louis Blumberg
Deputy Director,
Communications and Legislation
(916) 653-1586

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CDF Winter Preparedness Levels

Sacramento – Despite the recent rain, in recognition of several years of below-normal rainfall and severe drought, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) is transitioning to winter preparedness levels in its three southern California units in San Diego, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. “We are not closing fire season,” stressed Jim Wright, CDF Chief of Fire Protection. “We recognize that fires can start anytime of year in Southern California, especially after severe drought, and we will continue to be prepared to respond” added Chief Wright.

For the first time, CDF will station three fire fighting airplanes in Southern California during the winter. The aircraft combined with CDF permanent staff and equipment, will provide an elevated level of preparedness for CDF. “These prudent changes will allow us to deliver comprehensive and aggressive fire protection to the people of southern California,” added Chief Wright.

CDF’s new aviation contract, negotiated this past year by the Davis Administration, makes pilots available on call. “I’ve already identified some pilots living close to the air base. We will have pilots in the planes as quick as is humanly possible,” stated Chief Wright.

Wet winter weather allows CDF to release seasonal firefighters and cut back on the fire engines that are staffed around the clock. However, CDF is prepared to call them back when fire weather conditions dictate. CDF is a full service fire department and continues to provide emergency response services in most of California throughout the year.

For more information about CDF and Fire Season 2002 see our website at www.fire.ca.gov

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