
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



CONTACT: Daniel Berlant
Information Officer
(916) 651-FIRE (3473)

RELEASE
DATE: November 20, 2007

CAL FIRE Mobilizing for Santa Ana Winds

SACRAMENTO – The State of California is pre-positioning resources in Southern California in preparation of extreme fire danger due to predicted Santa Ana winds. Weather forecasters are predicting very low humidity accompanied by widespread gusty Santa Ana winds across Southern California Wednesday morning through Thursday and possibly more strong winds over the weekend.

“The forecasts indicate weather conditions could be similar to the winds from late-October,” said Chief Ruben Grijalva, director of CAL FIRE. “Extremely gusty Santa Ana winds just increase the chance of a single spark becoming a major fire due to the dry vegetation in Southern California.”

In response to these anticipated conditions, CAL FIRE is pre-positioning hundreds of additional firefighters, fire engines, fire crews, and aircraft to respond to any new wildfires. CAL FIRE and the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services are coordinating with its partners including the United States Forest Service and local fire departments throughout the state. These resources are in addition to the normal staffing for this time of year and will be positioned across San Diego, Orange, Riverside, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Ventura, San Luis Obispo, and Kern counties.

“This pre-position of fire resources is something we do whenever a Red Flag Warning is issued or severe fire weather is expected in the state,” Grijalva said. “We move our resources up and down the state wherever there is a need.”

###