

CalFire ups staffing because of fire danger

CalFire is increasing its staffing as windy conditions are predicted to elevate fire danger across many areas of California.

With many Californians planning to recreate outdoors for the Memorial Day weekend, CalFire is asking the public to take steps to prevent sparking a wildfire. According to the National Weather Service many parts of California will see warm weather this weekend and winds through Saturday with gusts of 20-30 mph. There is a risk of lightning across the higher elevations in the Sierra.

Since Jan. 1, CalFire has responded to more than 1,100 wildfires that have burned more than 10,000 acres. Last week fire crews responded to 169 wildfires that charred approximately 4,000 acres.

Here are some tips to be safe:

Camping:

- Obtain a campfire permit
- Check for local fire restrictions
- Clear away grass, leaves and other debris within a 10-foot perimeter of any campfire
- Have a responsible person in attendance at all times
- Ensure all campfires are completely extinguished before leaving
- When barbecuing, never leave the grill unattended,

Vehicle

- Ensure your vehicle is properly maintained with nothing dragging on the ground
- When towing, make sure trailer chains are properly secured
- Never drive or pull over into dry grass.