



For Immediate Release

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DRY WEATHER ELEVATES FIRE CONDITIONS THIS WINTER

The Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument (USFS), Tule River Reservation Fire Department (TIA), the Kern County Fire Department (KCFD), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Bakersfield Field Office want to remind the public of the elevated fire danger affecting the area. The continuation of dry, warm weather with relative low humidity has raised the possibility of grass and brush catching fire despite the cool night temperatures. Windy weather can also increase the dangers of burning near these dry and fire-prone fuels. Large fires can result from just a small spark under these conditions. Both Kern County and the Tule River Reservation have experienced several small fires this past week due to the current conditions.

Please follow your local burn restrictions at home, follow campfire safety regulations when enjoying the outdoors, and ensure spark arrestors are in proper operating order. Homeowners are reminded to stay aware of dry fuels and changes in fire danger, especially when the Santa Ana winds begin to blow. The public is reminded to continue working on hazardous fuel reduction projects around homes and properties and continue to stay prepared throughout the winter season. Thank you to all partners and outlying communities and Firesafe Councils for their strong support in these efforts.

Fire agencies will remain available to respond to emergencies at all times. Fire crews from all agencies may conduct prescribed fires and other fuels projects throughout the winter. Controlled burns improve safety in the wildland/urban interface (WUI) and increase ecological stability through the reintroduction of a fire cycle to the area's wildlands. These projects are weighed carefully against weather conditions to ensure safe operations. Despite high fire danger at lower elevations, snow can still be found in patches at high elevations; although dry conditions have been reported up to 6000 ft in some areas.