

RED FLAG WARNINGS

What Are They?

A Red Flag Warning alert occurs when conditions for fire risk have reached critical. State and local news usually announce Red Flag Warnings 24-48 hours in advance, via TV, radio, phone, and email, so there is enough time to act on short-term preparations. These Red Flag Warning suggestions from CalFire are reminders of what we should do.

Fire Weather Watch:

- This is one level below a Red Flag Warning but fire danger is still high.
- Extreme weather conditions are forecasted for the next 12-72 hours.

Red Flag Warning:

- Issued by the National Weather Service
- Critical fire weather conditions are expected during the next 24 hours with a *combination* of:
 - low relative humidity (18%-28%)
 - warm temperatures (over 75 degrees F)
 - strong winds (gusts to 35mph)
 - dry fuels and dry lightning strikes adding to the danger level
- ‘Santa Ana’ winds occur in southern CA; northern CA calls them ‘Diablo’ winds.
- Prepare to evacuate!

Understand the Difference in these Terms:

- **Evacuation Warning** – There is a potential threat to life and property within a given timeframe. Begin preparing yourself, your animals and your property for a potential evacuation order. Always leave if you feel unsafe.
- **Evacuation Order** – You must evacuate immediately due to imminent threat to life. Do not delay in gathering your belongings and preparing your home.
- **Shelter in place** - Stay in your current location. This may be required when evacuation is impossible, too dangerous, or unnecessary.