



NEWS RELEASE

Imperial County Fire Department

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

DATE: Tuesday, January 7, 2025

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Imperial County Fire Department and Brawley Fire Department Assist with Statewide Prepositioning for Emergency Response

Imperial County, CA—A single resource from the Imperial County Fire Department and the Brawley Fire Department has been deployed to support California's emergency preparedness efforts. On January 7, 2025, at 7:00 a.m. (PST), the department responded to an official resource request as part of Operation OES Preposition/Mobilization coordinated by the San Bernardino County Operational Area.

Through this mobilization, Water Tender 62 (WT 62), a Type 1 Tactical Water Tender, was dispatched to the incident site to bolster firefighting capabilities. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) formally requested the resources to support operations and deployed from Imperial County to San Bernardino County. The unit is scheduled to arrive by 10:00 a.m. today, ensuring readiness for potential incidents as part of the statewide mutual aid system.

Fire Chief David Lantzer emphasized the department's commitment to statewide collaboration, stating, "Imperial County's emergency response teams continue to provide exceptional service to our region and across California when duty calls. We stand ready to assist our partners and ensure the safety of all communities during emergencies."

The prepositioning of resources like Water Tender 62 reflects ongoing efforts to strengthen resilience ahead of potential fire-related emergencies. This mission underscores the vital partnership between local agencies and Cal OES to mitigate threats and enhance readiness during high-risk periods.

Safety Message: Stay Prepared and Safe During High Wind Events

As the Imperial County Fire Department mobilizes resources to support emergency efforts, we urge residents to stay vigilant and prioritize safety during this wind event. Strong winds can increase fire danger and create hazards at home and on the road.

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Follow these safety tips to protect yourself and your loved ones:

Fire Safety

- Avoid outdoor burning and use of equipment that can create sparks (e.g., welding, grinding, or mowing dry vegetation).
- Secure loose outdoor items like patio furniture, tarps, and decorations that could become wind-driven projectiles.
- Report any signs of smoke or fire immediately by calling 911.

Driving Safety

- Avoid driving high-profile vehicles (RVs, trucks, etc.) during high winds, as they are prone to tipping.
- Watch for debris, downed power lines, and sudden gusts that may impact visibility or control of your vehicle.
- Slow down and keep both hands on the steering wheel for better control.

Home Preparedness

- Check emergency kits and have enough supplies (food, water, medications) for at least 72 hours.
- Charge your cell phones and have flashlights ready in case of power outages.
- Keep a battery-powered weather radio for real-time updates.

Power Line Safety

- Stay away from downed power lines and report them immediately to local authorities or your utility company.
- Do not attempt to move or touch anything in contact with a power line.

Staying informed and prepared can help keep your family safe during elevated fire and wind hazards. The Imperial County Fire Department remains committed to protecting our communities and working with local and state partners to respond swiftly to emergencies.

For updates and additional resources, follow the County of Imperial on our official channels and stay tuned to local emergency broadcasts.

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