

CALIFORNIA FIRE WEATHER ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN



CALIFORNIA ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN 2016

I. INTRODUCTION

A. The California Fire Weather Annual Operating Plan (AOP) constitutes an agreement between the California Wildfire Coordinating Group (CWCG) comprised of State, local government, and Federal land management agencies charged with the protection of life, property and resources within the State of California from threat of wildfire. The National Weather Service (NWS), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Department of Commerce are charged with providing weather forecasts to the Nation for the protection of life and property.

The AOP provides specific procedural and policy information regarding the delivery of meteorological services to the fire management community in California. The NWS, the CWCG, and Predictive Services work closely in all phases of the fire weather forecasts and warning program to resolve concerns and avoid potential inconsistencies in products and services prior to delivery to fire agency customers. The goal of all agencies is to maximize firefighter and public safety through a coordinated delivery of consistent services.

Fire protection within California is made efficient by the statewide exchange among Federal, State, and local agencies of their responsibilities for the protection of certain lands. Non-federal wildland fire management agencies are by agreement protecting Federal lands, and therefore, require NWS fire weather forecasts and warnings. It is essential that all fire protection agencies receive coordinated fire weather and fire danger services.

B. Roles and responsibilities of the NWS and the interagency fire management community are set forth in the following reference documents:

- [Interagency Agreement for Meteorological Services Among the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service of the U.S. Dept. of Interior, the Forest Service of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and the National Weather Service of the U.S. Dept. of Commerce \(National MOA or National Agreement\)](#);
- [CWCG – NWS California Fire Weather Program Assessment Team Charter](#)
- [National Weather Service NWSI 10-4: Fire Weather Services](#) ;
- [2016 National Mobilization Guide](#) ;
- [National Predictive Services Handbook](#);
- [NWCG Glossary](#)

C. Participating agencies include the following:

- Federal, State, and local fire agencies comprising the California Wildfire Coordinating Group (CWCG) and Predictive Services.
- The NOAA/National Weather Service offices serving California
- Representatives from independent city/county fire agencies.

CHANGES AND UPDATES FOR 2016

- Beginning January 2016 a permanent staffing reduction has occurred at the North Ops Predictive Services Office in Redding. New staffing will consist of two General Meteorologists and one Supervisory Meteorologist. This is a reduction of one forecaster from previous years. Due to the reduction in staff the North Ops Predictive Services Fire Weather staff will no longer produce spot forecasts. All spot forecasts are now provided by the National Weather Service.
- Weekly fuels charts for South Ops Predictive Services are now updated daily.
- Daily product for South Ops will be changing formats to show fire potential for days 1 and 2.
- In the fall of 2016 the National Weather Service will officially unveil a new internet based Spot Forecast interface. The purpose of the new Spot Webpage is to build upon the functionality of the existing page while incorporating new technology and satisfying recent regional requirements. To provide consistency to all fire weather partners, all California NWS offices (including Reno, Las Vegas, Medford and Phoenix) will transition to the new Spot Forecast webpage on November 1, 2016. The current operational Spot Page will remain active through January 2, 2017. During the transition period the new page can be accessed for testing and trial using the following link:

<http://preview.weather.gov/spot/>

A tutorial for the new page can be found at:

<https://docs.google.com/a/noaa.gov/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=bm9hYS5nb3Z8aW1ldHxneDoxMGY3YmRIZDBhNTQxZDgz>