



## WILDFIRE NEWS OF THE DAY

### United States

(1) Federal wildland firefighters may soon earn higher “hazard pay” rates for more of their work, according to a new proposal from the Office of Personnel Management, boosting the amount by 25% for any work that they do to manage and control prescribed burns.

***Wildland firefighters on track for 25% hazard pay boost for prescribed burns***

<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/pay/2026/04/wildland-firefighters-on-track-for-25-hazard-pay-boost-for-prescribed-burns/>



### *California*

(2) A new study by UCLA and USC researchers published in the *American Journal of Public Health* took a closer look at how the wildfires which blazed through Los Angeles County in January 2025 affected the unhoused population, finding that a majority of those surveyed said the disaster put their lives in danger.

***Wildfire Aftermath Study*** <https://laist.com/brief/news/housing-homelessness/most-unhoused-angelenos-say-la-wildfires-endangered-their-lives-study-finds>

(3) Officials with the Bureau of Land Management's California Desert District announced that fire restrictions put in place for Southern California on Wednesday, April 15th are expected to remain in place through late October.

***Bureau of Land Management enacts fire restrictions for Southern California*** <https://ktla.com/news/local-news/bureau-of-land-management-enacts-fire-restrictions-for-southern-california/>



(4) The San Diego Fire-Rescue Department is running a training exercise in Skyline this week to sharpen decision-making during critical incidents, applying lessons learned from the Los Angeles County wildfires in 2025 to local response strategies.

***San Diego Fire-Rescue conducts large-scale wildfire training exercise***

<https://www.cbs8.com/article/news/local/wildfire/san-diego-fire-rescue-wildfire-training/509-a0a94ce9-daed-4886-b6db-44fdd35c421a>

(5) Santa Barbara County Fire Department officials credited rapid attack with quickly halting forward progress of a 1/2-acre wildfire which ignited along northbound Highway 101 on Thursday afternoon south of El Capitán State Beach.

***Brush Fire Slows Highway 101 Traffic near El Capitán, Forward Progress Stopped***

<https://www.edhat.com/news/brush-fire-slows-highway-101-traffic-near-el-capitan-forward-progress-stopped/>



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(6) The CAL FIRE Chief noted that the fact that the Golden State's snowpack has plunged to a new record low, sitting at just 10% to 20% of normal, not only threatening the state's water supply, but dramatically worsening wildfire conditions.

***California snowpack hits record low, raising wildfire fears: Fire chief***

<https://ktla.com/news/california/california-snowpack-record-low-wildfire-risk/>

(7) CAL FIRE Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit officials reported that firefighters have fully contained the 5-acre Maacama Fire, which broke out about 4 PM near the 5800 block of Maacama Ridge Road, east of Healdsburg.

***Sonoma Co.: Update: Brush Fire East Of Healdsburg Fully Contained***

<https://www.sfgate.com/news/bayarea/article/sonoma-co-update-brush-fire-east-of-healdsburg-22211333.php>



## Oregon

(8) Firefighters have made good progress in containing the 260-acre Diamond Swamp Fire a few miles northwest of the town of Diamond and about 60 miles southeast of Burns, which is burning in a swampy area of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge - Harney County's first wildfire of the season.

**Early-season wildfire burns nearly 260 acres in swampy area of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge**

<https://ktvz.com/news/fire/2026/04/16/early-season-wildfire-burns-nearly-260-acres-in-swampy-area-of-malheur-national-wildlife-refuge/>

(9) Following a winter with snowpack averaging one-fifth of normal and early drought declarations, the indicators are that Central Oregon is heading for a bad fire season, with lots of smoke, following a year which saw a 1,500% spike over previous years.

**Bend sees 1,500% spike in unhealthy air days from wildfire smoke, with bad season expected**

[https://www.centraloregondaily.com/news/wildfires/central-oregon-wildfire-smoke-air-quality-trend-bend/article\\_954f2fdb-8bd1-4ca7-86ab-6afdaf011c76.html](https://www.centraloregondaily.com/news/wildfires/central-oregon-wildfire-smoke-air-quality-trend-bend/article_954f2fdb-8bd1-4ca7-86ab-6afdaf011c76.html)



(10) With Portland Fire & Rescue affirming that there were three wildfires that erupted in Oaks Bottom in the last year and that the area is their highest concern for a fire threat outside of Forest Park, the next article looks at what measures could be taken to avert a disaster like those that befell the Los Angeles County cities of Altadena and Pacific Palisades in January 2025.

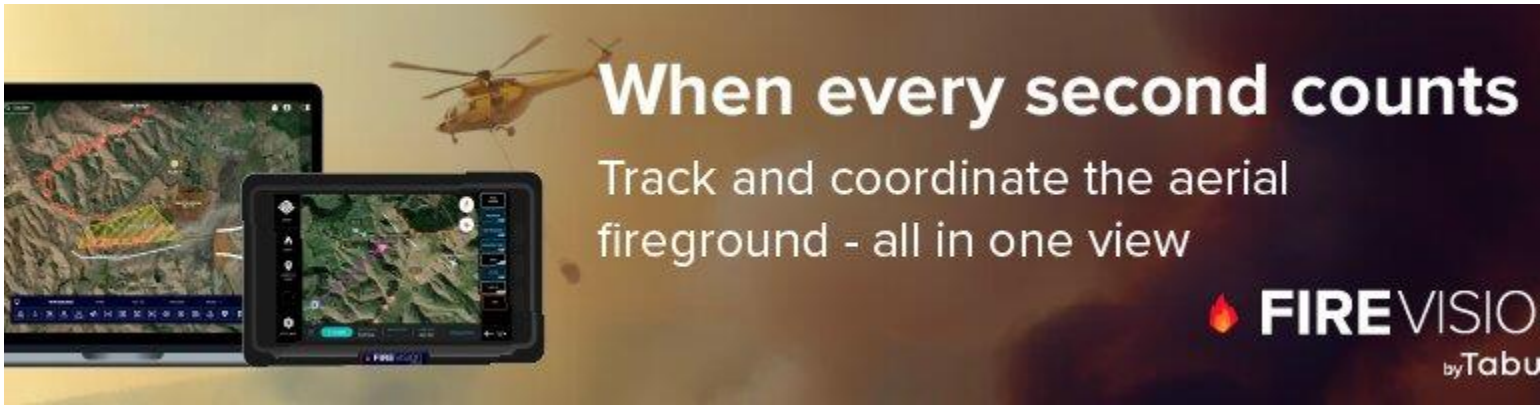
**A fire waiting to happen? Researcher warns SE Portland could mirror L.A.-style wildfires**

<https://katu.com/news/local/a-fire-waiting-to-happen-researcher-warns-se-portland-could-mirror-la-style-wildfires>

## Arizona

(11) Tucson Police Department officials reported that a man has been accused of starting a 15.3-acre wildfire in the Agua Caliente Wash near Castle Rock on April 14th while living/camping in the nearby desert.

**Tucson man accused of starting brush fire near Castle Rock** [https://www.kvoa.com/news/crime/tucson-man-accused-of-starting-brush-fire-near-castle-rock/article\\_a277222b-7c5d-4f52-b4a2-a8cebea5f17e.html](https://www.kvoa.com/news/crime/tucson-man-accused-of-starting-brush-fire-near-castle-rock/article_a277222b-7c5d-4f52-b4a2-a8cebea5f17e.html)



### Utah

(12) Firefighters successfully halted progress of a trio of small wildfires burning near homes in Toquerville, in Washington County, before they reached any structures, then stayed at the scene for several hours to extinguish hot spots.

**Firefighters tackle three fires in Washington County, save nearby structures**

<https://kjzz.com/news/local/firefighters-tackle-three-fires-in-washington-county-save-nearby-structures>

### Colorado

(13) Roaring Fork Valley governments and fire and law enforcement agencies are gearing up for what is anticipated to be a much warmer and drier summer than normal, with the director of wildfire resilience for Aspen Fire reminding residents that, although wildfires are inevitable, they are ultimately preventable.

**Local leaders gear up for unprecedented wildfire season** [https://www.aspendailynews.com/news/local-leaders-gear-up-for-unprecedented-wildfire-season/article\\_1a5a4640-1e10-45af-9d3d-fafcbf6e88b3.html](https://www.aspendailynews.com/news/local-leaders-gear-up-for-unprecedented-wildfire-season/article_1a5a4640-1e10-45af-9d3d-fafcbf6e88b3.html)

	<p>The Future Of Wildland Firefighting? You Decide...</p> <p><i>"Firebombers Incorporated maintains a substantial level of suspense!"</i></p> <p><b>Wildland Firefighter Magazine</b></p>	<p>Firefighters Save Lives. These Firefighters Save A Nation!</p> <p><i>"Firestorm is action-packed and will keep the reader enthralled throughout!"</i></p> <p><b>The Nashville News</b></p>	
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### Kansas

(14) Kansas Forest Service officials reported that crews fought the 700-acre Arkansas River Fire for the majority of Thursday evening and Friday morning south of US 50, west of US 183, near Kinsley, where Tanker 95 completed multiple water drops.

**Crews battling 700 wildfire in western Kansas** [https://www.kake.com/home/crews-battling-1-000-acre-wildfire-in-western-kansas/article\\_863a9f24-1f34-4e96-a5e2-5cce76ecdc4b.html](https://www.kake.com/home/crews-battling-1-000-acre-wildfire-in-western-kansas/article_863a9f24-1f34-4e96-a5e2-5cce76ecdc4b.html)

### Wyoming

(15) In the year following a record-breaking 2025 fire season for Wyoming, the Bureau of Land Management Wind River/Bighorn Basin District Assistant Fire Management Officer discussed preparations for the fire season ahead.

***BLM firefighters prepare year-round for wildland fire season***

[https://www.wyomingnews.com/news/local\\_news/blm-firefighters-prepare-year-round-for-wildland-fire-season/article\\_b183b98b-79ec-43d3-a2c3-43c8901d0f83.html](https://www.wyomingnews.com/news/local_news/blm-firefighters-prepare-year-round-for-wildland-fire-season/article_b183b98b-79ec-43d3-a2c3-43c8901d0f83.html)

***South Dakota***

(16) Local fire crews responded to several small wildfires Thursday morning in the Rapid City area, all of which were quickly contained, including the 1/4-acre Kennedy Fire, which erupted in the 12700 block of Old Hill City Road east of Hill City.

***Crews Quickly Contain Three Small Wildfires in Rapid City Area***

<https://www.kotaradio.com/2026/04/17/crews-quickly-contain-three-small-wildfires-in-rapid-city-area/>

***Nebraska***

(17) The Dawson County Emergency Manager reported that a 750-acre wildfire which was sparked by lightning on Wednesday, April 15th, as a thunderstorm passed through northern Dawson County, prompted the evacuation of the community of Sumner during the evening hours of Thursday, April 16th.

***750 acre fire prompts evacuation of Sumner on Thursday evening*** <https://kgfw.com/2026/04/17/750-acres-fire-prompts-evacuation-of-sumner-on-thursday-evening/>

***Alabama***

(18) Alabama State Forestry crews from the Southwest Division worked around the clock to contain a 1,700-acre wildfire that started on little more than 20 acres in Citronelle on Saturday, burning across forests and swamps, affecting multiple property owners.

***Citronelle wildfire contained after burning more than 1,700 acres***

<https://www.fox10tv.com/2026/04/16/citronelle-wildfire-contained-after-burning-more-than-1700-acres/>

***Pennsylvania***

(19) Michaux Forest District officials provided an update on the 75-acre Knob Hill Fire, which broke out on Saturday, April 11th in Greene Township, Franklin County, noting that firefighters have halted the forward progress of the blaze.

***Michaux Forest District says Franklin County wildfire has 'stopped forward progression'***

<https://www.fox43.com/article/news/local/franklin-county/michaux-forest-district-franklin-county-wildfire-stopped-forward-progression/521-c7d3c8ce-ccd2-4584-9752-9bd2d22cc613>

***Virginia***

(20) The Suffolk Fire Marshal Chief reported that a man was charged in connection with a 100-acre wildfire, as well as a second 40-acre blaze which Suffolk Fire & Rescue battled east of the earlier fire near Lummis and Copeland roads.

***Second Suffolk brush fire burns 40 acres near site of Thursday's 100-acre blaze***

<https://www.suffolknewsherald.com/news/second-suffolk-brush-fire-burns-40-acres-near-site-of-thursdays-100-acre-blaze-83208310/>

(21) Prince George Fire and EMS officials reported that local firefighters battled a 2-acre wildfire which broke out in the 9000 block of East Quaker Road in Prince George County on Thursday, with officials saying that this

area is “especially vulnerable to rapid fire spread.”

**PHOTOS: Brush fire burns through at least two acres in Prince George** <https://www.wric.com/news/local-news/prince-george/brush-fire-east-quaker-road-april-16/>

### **North Carolina**

(22) North Carolina Forest Service officials reported that a 50-acre wildfire burning near Topton, in Macon County, remained 0% contained as of 9:18 PM on Thursday, April 16th, as drought conditions keep the wildfire danger elevated.

**Wildfire reported in Macon County, within the Nantahala National Forest**

<https://wlos.com/news/local/wildfire-nantahala-national-forest-macon-county-topton-fire-forest-service-north-carolina-reported-drought-dry-acres-containment>

### **Georgia**

(23) U.S. Forest Service officials reported that the 30-acre Buzzard Mountain Fire, which broke out late Sunday afternoon, is 100% contained, though White County Public Safety officials reminded residents that the wildfire danger remains.

**U.S. Forest Services says Buzzard Mountain fire now 100% contained** <https://www.wsbtv.com/news/local/us-forest-services-says-fire-burns-buzzard-mountain-100-contained/HC6S2TEEXVC5RJCHFCHLWYN4QE/>

### **Florida**

(24) U.S. Forest Service officials reported that the 450-acre Appalachia Incident burning in the Shinbone Ridge area of the Cherokee National Forest, near McFarland and the Hiwassee River, remained 0% contained as of Thursday, prompting a smoke advisory in Polk County.

**UPDATE: 450 acres burning in Cherokee National Forest** [https://www.local3news.com/local-news/update-450-acres-burning-in-cherokee-national-forest/article\\_f354dd74-6154-463b-86ee-1106f9e0abeb.html](https://www.local3news.com/local-news/update-450-acres-burning-in-cherokee-national-forest/article_f354dd74-6154-463b-86ee-1106f9e0abeb.html)

(25) Florida Forest Service officials reported that a 302-acre wildfire which has been burning near State Route 26, between County Road 234 and U.S. 301, east of Gainesville in Alachua County, is 60% contained.

**UPDATE: Wildfire east of Gainesville is 60% contained** <https://alachuachronicle.com/400-acre-wildfire-east-of-gainesville-is-30-contained/>

(26) Hernando County Fire Rescue crews continued to battle a 12-acre wildfire that sparked Thursday afternoon in the 4100 block of Burns Road, in South Brooksville, bringing the blaze to approximately 5% contained.

**Hernando County brush fire grows as crews work to contain area**

<https://www.fox13news.com/news/hernando-county-brush-fire-crews-brooksville>



### **Canada**

## ***British Columbia***

(27) A realtor has been ordered to pay a \$3,600 fine for flying a drone into an active wildfire zone over Okanagan Lake during August 2023's 34,522-acre McDougall Creek wildfire in the Okanagan region, where it distracted a helicopter pilot battling the blaze.

***Man Distracted Helicopter Pilot by Flying Drone Near Wildfire*** <https://petapixel.com/2026/04/16/man-distracted-helicopter-pilot-by-flying-drone-near-wildfire/>

(28) In the annual drought and wildfire outlook for British Columbia, the northeast part of the province remains the biggest area of concern given the ongoing, multi-year drought conditions, with the Interior seeing the snowpack at a 40-year low, and the western parts of the Cariboo Fire Centre and the Kamloops Fire Centre facing a higher wildfire danger this summer.

***Northeast B.C. biggest area of concern for wildfires in 2026 season*** <https://globalnews.ca/news/11804435/bc-2026-wildfire-drought-danger/>

## **Europe**

(29) Cyprus Forestry Department officials reported that two forest fires which caused by lightning strikes in the Karvounas area of the Mediterranean island nation were brought under full control on Friday shortly after breaking out.

***Forest fires sparked by lightning brought under control*** <https://cyprus-mail.com/2026/04/17/forest-fires-sparked-by-lightning-brought-under-control>

## **Asia**

### ***Vietnam***

(30) Fire officials in Dong Thap Province showed off some of the technology they are using to better spot and deal with wildfires during the dry season in a province that boasts more than 7,740 hectares of forest land.

***Modern technology enhances forest fire prevention*** <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/modern-technology-enhances-forest-fire-prevention-post341112.vnp>

### ***Thailand***

(31) Wildfires intensified across northern and western Thailand, with 2,165 hotspots detected, as officials and an army of 25,000 firefighting personnel escalated aerial and ground operations to contain the spreading blazes.

***Huge turnout battles rash of wildfires*** <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/3238364/huge-turnout-battles-rash-of-wildfires>

## **Oceania**

(32) Wildfire NOTD subscriber Chris MacDonald, Chief Marketing Officer at TracPlus (<https://www.tracplus.com/>), sent along an announcement that Wildfire NOTD subscriber Todd O'Hara, Chief Commercial Officer at TracPlus, has been promoted to CEO of the New Zealand-based company, which provides operational data and insights trusted by the world's leading aerial firefighting agencies.

***TracPlus Announces Leadership Transition: Todd O'Hara Appointed Chief Executive Officer*** <https://www.tracplus.com/tracplus-blog/press-release-todd-ohara-ceo>

## Australia

(33) A long-time Gellibrand Fire Brigade firefighter discussed the importance of evacuating during a bushfire, something which he had to do during January's Carlisle River and Kennedy Creek fires, which blazed through Great Otway National Park.

**Homes Can Be Rebuilt, Lives Can't - Leave Early** <https://www.miragenews.com/homes-can-be-rebuilt-lives-cant-leave-early-1656481/>



**Publication Schedule:** *Wildfire News of the Day* is published five days a week (Monday through Friday) except on the following holidays:

*Martin Luther King Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and the day after, and the two weeks constituting Christmas and New Year's*

Best Regards,

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