



California Military Department California National Guard



EMERGENCY RESPONSE KERN COUNTY FIRES

Information Alert

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California National Guard Provides Wildfire Containment Support

The California National Guard is currently providing operational support to civilian authorities conducting wildfire control efforts in Kern County. The California Army National Guard support assets include three CH-47 Chinook helicopters and two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters conducting water bucket drop operations on the Commanche Complex. Additionally, the California Air National Guard's 146th Airlift Wing is providing one C-130J aircraft carrying the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS 4) capable of providing the airborne delivery of flame retardant in support of CALFIRE.

There are four major fires in Kern County. The Commanche Complex consists of four fires that have spread to 29,338 acres and is currently 60 percent contained. The growth risk for this fire is high due to the rugged terrain, and it threatens 2,300 residences. California National Guard air assets have dropped 116,152 pounds of water over the Commanche Complex. The Keen Complex has burned 10,312 acres and consists of three separate fires. The Keen Complex is currently 88 percent contained. The growth risk for these fires is considered medium risk, but up to four communities could be threatened depending on fire behavior. The Breckenridge Complex is 29,383 acres and is 40 percent contained.

Additional information will be provided if the support role of the California National Guard expands or changes.

If you have any questions regarding this support, or any other matter pertaining to the California National Guard, please contact Major (Retired) Darrin Bender at (916) 854-3705.