

2026 Wildfire Outlook

Nevada County

Board of Supervisor's Meeting
May 19, 2026



NEVADA
COUNTY
CALIFORNIA





Alex Keeble-Toll, Director, Emergency Services

Alessandra Zambrano, County Wildfire Coordinator



Jim Hudson, Chief, CAL FIRE Nevada Yuba Placer Unit

Steve Garcia, Unit Forester, CAL FIRE Nevada Yuba Placer Unit

Planning & Preparedness

Outreach and Education Wheel

1
Education & Preparedness



2
Mitigation, Implementation, & Maintenance



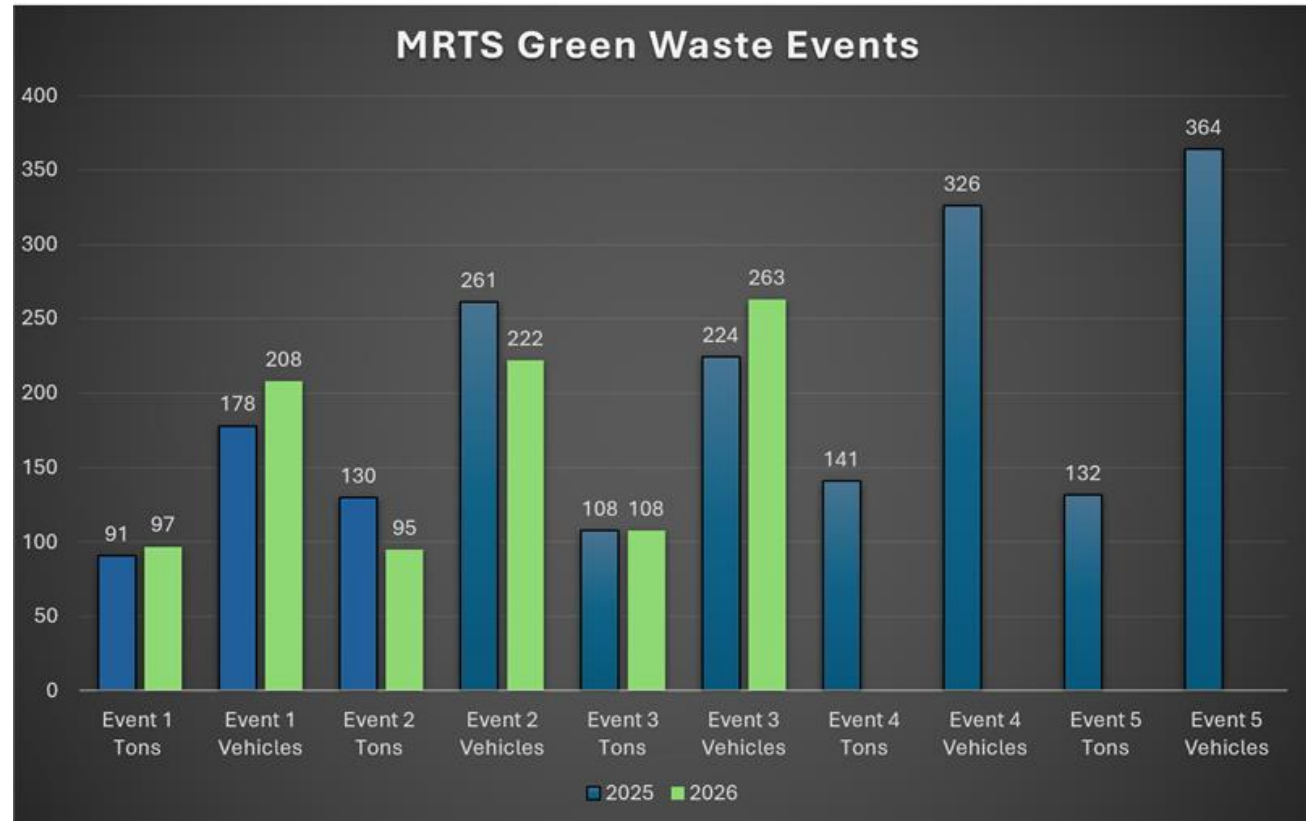
4
Planning



3
Wildfire, Evacuation, & Prevention



Free Community Green Waste



Free Community Green Waste

- **Western Nevada County**
 - Monday, May 25: McCourtney Transfer Station
- **Eastern Nevada County**
 - Friday, May 29: 14942 Slalom Way (Tahoe Donner Downhill Ski Area)
 - Saturday, June 27: Truckee Rodeo Grounds
 - Friday, July 10: Truckee Rodeo Grounds
 - Friday, September 4: 14942 Slalom Way (Tahoe Donner Downhill Ski Area)



California Firesafe Council County Coordinator Program

- Awarded in 2021 (Resolution No. 21-531), renewed in 2024 (Resolution No. 24-198), & 2025 (Resolution No. 25-305)
- County-wide education, collaboration, and coordination for wildfire mitigation



Getting Nevada County Ready

2025

- 48 Outreach Events
- 17 Events Focused on Planning and Preparedness
- Over **2,000** Community Members Engaged

Meeting people where they are at...



Nevada County Alerts



- Platform launched on April 14
- County-wide Outreach Campaign in Spanish and English
- 7,000 Sign-Ups in 7 Days
- New Materials Distributed to Firewise Communities
- Data Migrated from CodeRED
- Instructional Sign-Up Film
- Virtual Office Hours Session
- County-Wide Test on May 28



County-Wide Mailer

Coming Soon!

SIGN UP FOR NEVADA COUNTY'S NEW EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM NEVADA COUNTY ALERTS



| TYPE OF EMERGENCY ALERT | DESCRIPTION | HOW TO GET IT |
|--|--|---|
| Nevada County Alerts (Previously CodeRED) | Landline and cell calls, emails, texts for emergencies impacting your home address. | Registration required. Register online at ReadyNevadaCounty.org or call 2-1-1 or 1-833-DIAL211. |
| Genasys Protect App | With the Genasys Protect mobile app, follow a zone or turn on your location to get notified about danger wherever you are. | Download required. Visit your app store and search for Genasys Protect. |
| Wireless Emergency Alert | Notification to your cellphone based on location. | No registration required. This alert is issued by local government as part of the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System. |
| Emergency Alert System | Alerts radio listeners and TV viewers. | No registration required. This alert is issued by local government as part of the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System. |
| Hi-Lo Siren | Alerts neighborhoods of an Evacuation Order using a European-style, two-tone siren. | Law enforcement will go door to door when Evacuation Orders have been issued. |
| Stay Informed | Be vigilant and monitor local media to stay informed of current information. Only share vetted information. | Use the list of trusted local media sources at: ReadyNevadaCounty.org/Informed |

Don't live in Nevada County? Registering for Nevada County Alerts is still a good idea for anyone who regularly spends time here.

Find more wildfire preparedness tips at:

ReadyNevadaCounty.org



INSCRÍBASE EN EL NUEVO SISTEMA DE ALERTAS DE EMERGENCIA DEL CONDADO DE NEVADA ALERTAS DEL CONDADO DE NEVADA

| TIPO DE ALERTA DE EMERGENCIA | DESCRIPCIÓN | CÓMO OBTENERLA |
|--|---|--|
| Alertas del Condado de Nevada (Anteriormente CodeRED) | Llamadas a líneas fijas y a celulares, correos electrónicos y mensajes de texto para emergencias que afecten su hogar. | Es necesario registrarse. Regístrese en línea en ReadyNevadaCounty.org en la pestaña de Alertas de Emergencia o llame al 2-1-1 o al 1-833-DIAL211. |
| Aplicación Genasys Protect | Con la aplicación móvil Genasys Protect, podrá seguir una zona o activar su ubicación para recibir notificaciones de riesgo dondequiera que esté. | Es necesario descargarla. Visite su tienda de aplicaciones y busque Genasys Protect. |
| Alerta Inalámbrica de Emergencias | Notificaciones a su teléfono celular según su ubicación. | No es necesario registrarse. Esta alerta es emitida por el gobierno local como parte del Sistema Integrado de Alertas y Avisos Públicos. |
| Sistema de Alerta de Emergencia | Alerta a los radioescuchas y televidentes | No es necesario registrarse. Esta alerta es emitida por el gobierno local como parte del Sistema Integrado de Alertas y Avisos Públicos. |
| Sirena de Baja Frecuencia | Alerta a los vecinos en caso de una orden de evacuación usando una sirena de dos tonos de estilo europeo. | Alerte a los vecinos en caso de una orden de evacuación usando una sirena de dos tonos de estilo europeo. |
| Permanezca informado | Esté atento y siga los medios de comunicación locales para mantenerse informado de las situaciones en curso. | Consulte la lista de medios de comunicación locales en: ReadyNevadaCounty.org/Informed |

¿No vive en el condado de Nevada? Registrarse en Nevada County Alerts sigue siendo una buena idea para cualquier persona que pase tiempo aquí regularmente.

ReadyNevadaCounty.org



Children's Art Contest



Nevada County Office of Emergency Services

Yesterday at 10:37 AM · 🌐

Nevada County elementary and middle school students are invited to participate in a wildfire-themed coloring and drawing contest hosted by Nevada County Office of Emergency Services. The final deadline to submit is May 31.

Submissions will be featured on Nevada County social media to help promote wildfire resilience messaging. At least one winner will be selected per grade, and winning artwork may be used in outreach and education materials such as signs, handouts, booklets, or swag items. All submissions must include a completed contest application form.

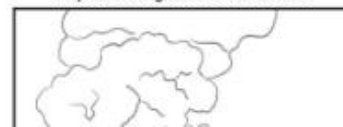
Drop off completed submissions at:

- Nevada County Office of Emergency Services: 950 Maidu Ave, Nevada City
- Madelyn Helling Library: 980 Helling Way, Nevada City
- Grass Valley Library: 207 Mill Street, Grass Valley
- Truckee Library: 10031 Levon Avenue, Truckee
- Penn Valley Library: 11252 Pleasant Valley Road, Penn

ValleyReadyNevadaCounty.org/YouthPreparedness See less



Help the Firefighter Put Out the Fire!



Nevada County Middle School Wildfire Drawing Contest

CONTEST INFORMATION:

Nevada County Office of Emergency Services is hosting a wildfire-themed drawing contest for Nevada County middle school students.

The contest is open to all middle school students 6th - 8th Grade who live in Nevada County.

Submissions will be featured on Nevada County social media to promote wildfire resilience messaging. At least one winner will be selected per grade. Winning submissions will be used for

Wildfire Ready EOC Exercise





CAL FIRE UPDATE 2026

NEVADA YUBA PLACER UNIT



California Fire Year



- ▶ We average 8,000 wildland fires annually
- ▶ In 2025 we have experienced 342 wildland fires
- ▶ April precipitation across the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit has resulted in less than average acres burned into the month of May

2025 NEU Wildland Fires



- ▶ Maintained our annual average of just over **400** wildland fire ignitions
- ▶ Highest annual lightning strikes across Northern California in 14 years
146,846
- ▶ Significant reduction in acres burned in 2025, largest fire was just over **80** acres
- ▶ **The Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit has maintained our goal of contained 95% of our fires at 10 acres or less**

Grass Valley ECC - 2025



- ▶ Grass Valley ECC dispatched **38,032** 9-11 calls in 2025. This generated **71,950** responses
- ▶ **89,633** 9-11 calls received
- ▶ Statewide, CAL FIRE continues to dispatch and respond to over **600,000 calls for service annually**

CAL FIRE Updates



- ▶ **Aviation Program is on track for implementation of C-130s and S-70i Blackhawks**
 - ▶ 4 C-130's will be in-service for fire season.
 - ▶ 17 Blackhawks
- ▶ **Continued additions of emerging technologies and intelligence gathering programs**

Fire Detection and AI

- 86 cameras at 58 locations
 - All cameras with AI enhanced early detection with human verification
 - Nearly a third of detections beat 911 calls
- FireSat high-resolution multispectral satellite imagery
 - Current satellite platforms detect at 2-3 acres
 - FireSat can detect 0.006 acre, roughly 16'x16'
 - First prototype launched March 2025, three more this year, ~70-minute revisit interval
 - 50+ satellites by 2030, 15–20-minute revisit time
- CAL FIRE Intel-641 Remote Sensing Aircraft, McClellan



2026 Forecast

Greatest concern is the lack of competent snow-pack and shielding effect on large down wood debris. Summer monsoon will determine severity of impacts in the timber belt above 4500 feet.

Extensive early drying of all timber fuels may result in more and larger timber fires.

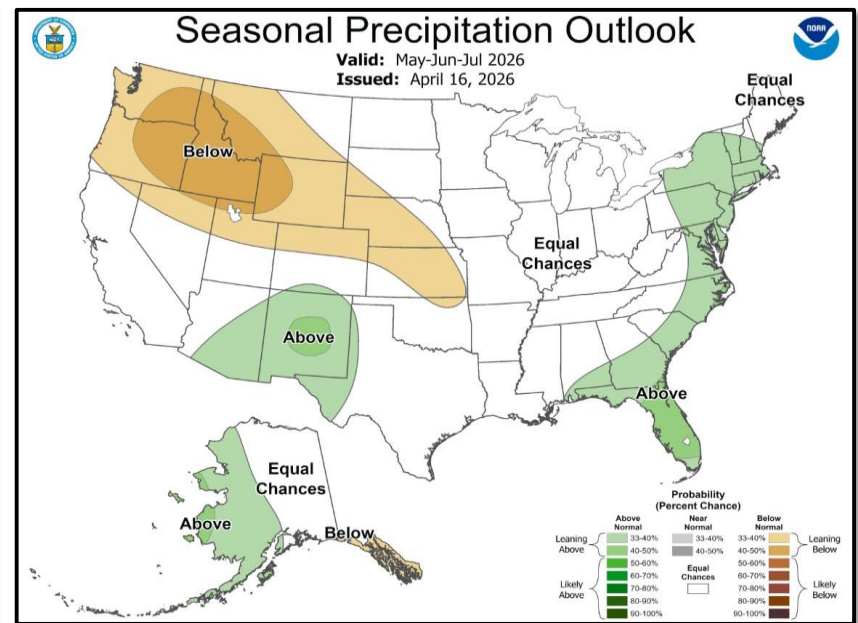
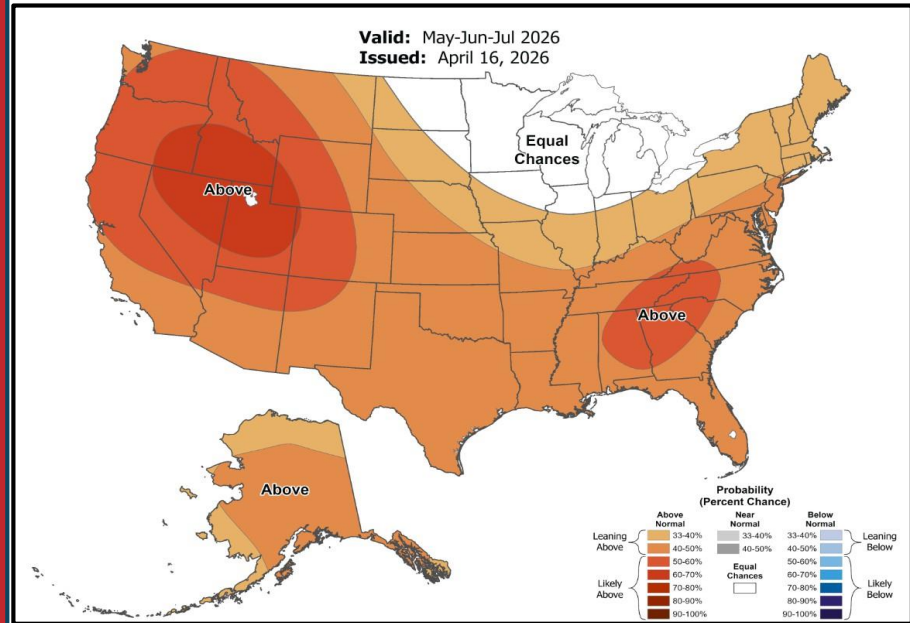
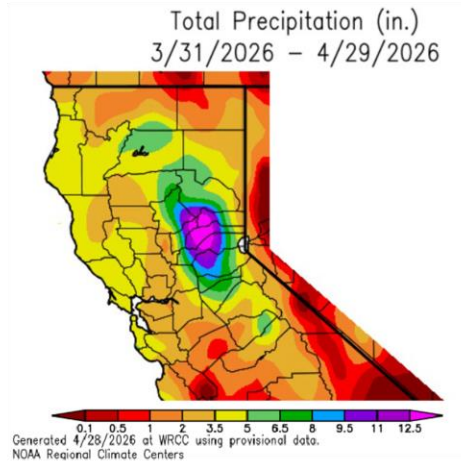
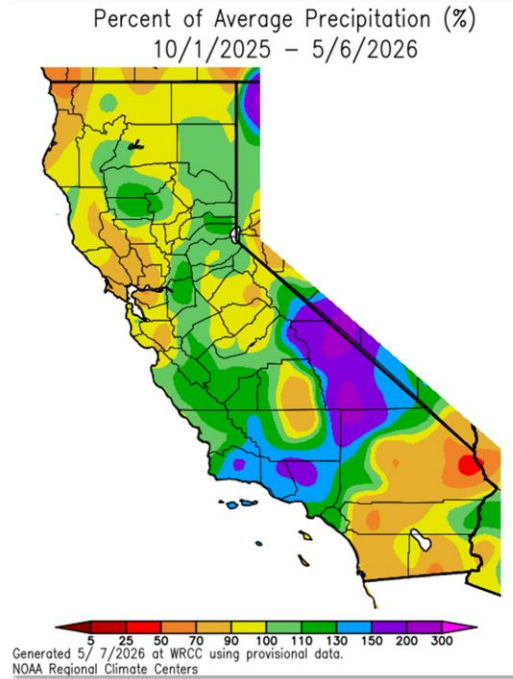
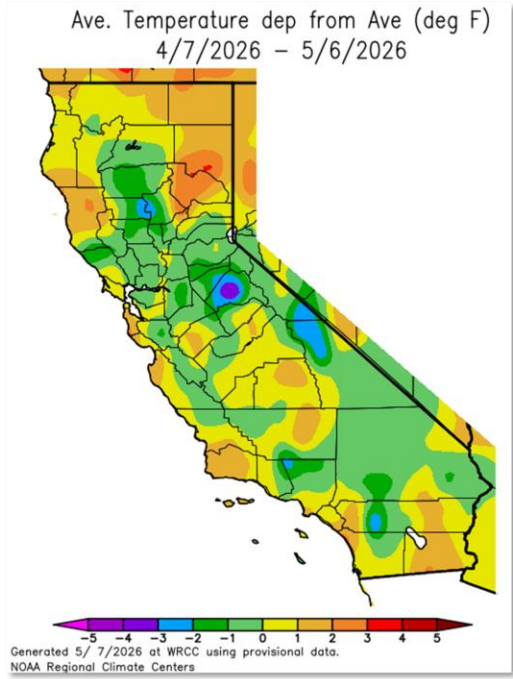
NEU Significant Fire Potential predicted to be above average June - August 2026.

Potential for instability July through



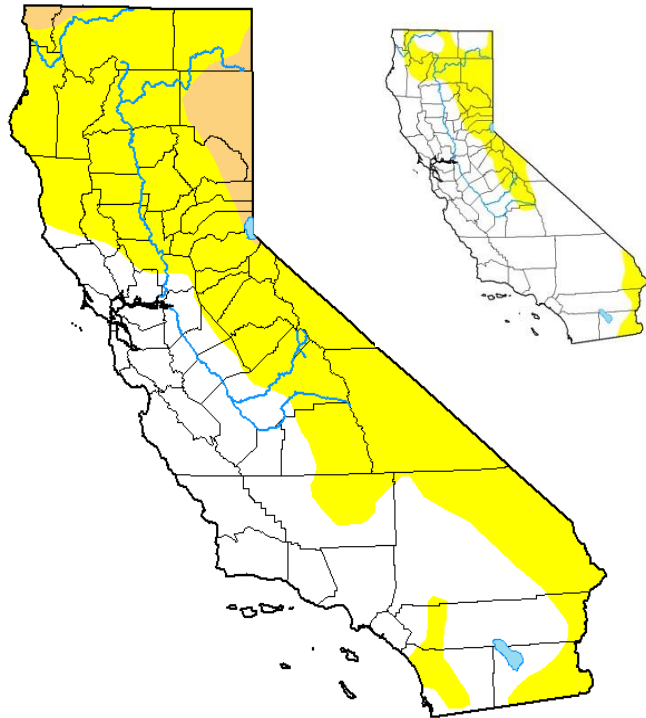
After a dry March, April offered moisture and high elevation snow, slowing progression of high fire danger, temporarily moderating risk

In April, NEU received 5 to 12 inches of



Weather Discussion: Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor California



April 28, 2026

(Released Thursday, Apr. 30, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

| | None | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4 |
|---|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Current | 39.74 | 60.26 | 4.87 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Last Week 04-21-2026 | 34.93 | 65.07 | 4.87 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 3 Months Ago 01-27-2026 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Start of Water Year 09-30-2025 | 26.78 | 73.22 | 38.52 | 18.61 | 1.25 | 0.00 |
| One Year Ago 04-29-2025 | 43.73 | 56.27 | 39.81 | 24.73 | 8.30 | 0.73 |

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Conditions across the state are quickly transitioning into Abnormally Dry with a 41% increase of area in the last month encompassing the whole of Northern California with 5% of the area now considered Moderate Drought.

2026 Fine Fuel Loading is above average

Grass Crop 3rd highest on record, 138% of historic average at 4,514 Lb./Ac.



Fuel Conditions

- Primary fuel types of concern are woody plants, currently experiencing delayed green up. Expect fuels to reach critical moisture in July, slightly behind schedule.
- Dead and down fuels from 2022 and 2023 with additions from 2025 winter storms in 3000 to 4000-foot zone are a real threat. Dead fuel moistures are tracking with historical low values. Cured wood in April is abnormal.

Pre-Fire Efforts



- ▶ **Emigrant Gap State Demonstration Forest work continues. 115 Acres treated**
- ▶ **2,590 acres treated since 7/1/25**
- ▶ **8,356 DSI inspections completed in Nevada County in the last year**

Fuels Reduction

- ▶ Continued Fuels Reduction efforts based on IMPs and Strategic Fire Plan in Nevada County



Operational Update for NEU

- ▶ **Peak Staffing has been increased to 9 months**
- ▶ **Additional Year-round Staffing added in 2026 at Truckee, Nevada City, and Higgins Stations through conversion of seasonal to permanent firefighter positions**



Operational Update for NEU



- ▶ **NEU Peak Staffing**
 - **22 Frontline Engines 3-0 Staffed**
 - **7 Hand Crews**
 - **4 Dozers**
 - **Fixed Wing and UAS Operations**
- ▶ **Type II Helicopter** at Auburn HQ
- ▶ **Type I Helicopter** at Truckee Airport
- ▶ Addition of the **East Division**. Assistant Chief position added and officed in Truckee.

Grass Valley Air Attack Base



- ▶ **New fire-retardant mixer installed at the Air Base**
- ▶ **First mixer of this type to be installed in California**
- ▶ **Can mix 8,000 gallons of retardant in 10 minutes. 4X faster than in the past.**

Thank you for your
Continued Support and
Partnership



**NEVADA
COUNTY**
CALIFORNIA

A low-angle photograph of a dense pine forest. The trees are tall and slender, with their branches and needles filling most of the frame. The sky is a clear, bright blue, visible through the canopy. In the center of the image, there is a semi-transparent green rectangular box with a white border. Inside this box, the word "Questions" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Questions