

# Drought and humans combine for dangerous fire season

August 12 2014

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10 major [wildfires continue to burn](#) in California, with several more in Oregon and Washington.

Some have been caused by lightning, others by people, which according to Mark Schwartz, director of the UC Davis John Muir Institute of the Environment, is happening more often.

The [San Diego fires](#) in May WERE caused by arson. Humans are also to blame for the recent [Bully Fire](#) in Shasta County and the [Sand Fire](#) in El Dorado and Amador counties when hot exhaust pipes torched dry grassland.

A campfire in the Sierra National Forest ignited the French Fire burning east of Modesto.

And after a year-long investigation, [a bow hunter has been charged](#) with letting a campfire get out of control, sparking the largest wildfire ever in the Sierra Nevada, the 250,000 acre Rim Fire.

According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or CAL FIRE, seven of the [largest wildfires in California history](#) were human caused.

With a long [fire](#) season ahead, CAL FIRE has launched an educational campaign called [One Less Spark](#) to help prevent human related [wildfires](#). It covers campfire safety, equipment operation, debris burning and

vehicle maintenance.

Northern and Central California are of particular concern. See the [Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisories map](#).

Provided by UC Davis

Citation: Drought and humans combine for dangerous fire season (2014, August 12) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-08-drought-humans-combine-dangerous-season.html>

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