

# Response to Thomas Fire

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Troy as a strike team leader giving an interview on his strike teams work at the Thomas Fire.

We are now sending Battalion Chief Troy Valenzuela as a strike team leader for a second strike team to the fire. His team will include Central Lyon, South Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, Carson City and Fallen Leaf.

Through Lake Tahoe Chiefs we have sent three strike teams. That means Northern Nevada/Lake Tahoe has sent six overhead personnel and 15 fire engines (probably 60 firefighters) to assist our neighbors. Nevada Division of Emergency Management just sent us a note they are looking for any and all fire engines to assist California due to the number

of fires they have going on based upon a personal request from the California OES director. This is a poor time of year as many federal wildland agencies don't have much staffing so it is the local and state government agencies that must carry the load.

Thanks to everyone who has come back in to help cover the vacancies. We have been at full staffing the entire morning.

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At 4:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 5th, East Fork received a request to send an engine to the Thomas Fire in Ventura County. At that time the fire was reported at 26,000 acres, 8,000 homes evacuated and 1 civilian fatality. We sent Brush 10 staffed by Captain Paul Azevedo, Engineer Kevin Repan, Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Wennhold and Firefighter/Paramedic Aaron Leising. They will form up with a strike team with four other engines from the Lake Tahoe Basin for work at the fire.

Multiple other large fires are reported in Southern California due to a Santa Anna wind event. California is still looking for additional fire engines to assist.

Just a reminder that while we are out of season, our friends that help us during the summer months are not yet.