



# NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection

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RELEASE DATE: January 16, 2025

## CAL FIRE ALERTS PUBLIC OF FAKE SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS REQUESTING DONATIONS

**Sacramento** – The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is alerting the public about fraudulent social media accounts impersonating CAL FIRE and soliciting donations. **CAL FIRE does not solicit donations from the public, either in person or online.**

Additionally, all of CAL FIRE's social media accounts are verified accounts and have the blue or gray checkmark and are categorized as a Government Organization. If you do not see the checkmark, it is not an official CAL FIRE account.



While CAL FIRE does not request donations, there are legitimate organizations that support victims affected by disasters, the fire service, and first responders. Anyone wishing to contribute to such organizations are encouraged to thoroughly research them to ensure their validity before making a donation.

CAL FIRE urges the public to remain vigilant and report suspicious accounts or activity to the relevant social media platform or authorities. Protecting our communities includes safeguarding them against scams and misinformation.

For official information and updates from CAL FIRE, please visit our verified website at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov) or follow our official social media channels.

[@CALFIRE \(Instagram\)](#)  
[@CALFIRE \(Facebook\)](#)

[@CAL\\_FIRE \(X\)](#)

Tips for confirming that a Government Organization's social media account is valid:

- Make sure the social media handle matches what is listed on official websites.
- Official government accounts generally post professional, relevant, and timely information.
- Look for official announcements or references to other credible sources, such as links to government websites or trusted news outlets.
- Be wary of accounts with low follower counts or sudden, rapid growth.
- Government accounts will never ask for sensitive personal information via social media.

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