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# CDF NEWS RELEASE

## California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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### **Governor Sends CDF Firefighters, Engines to Help Fight Baja Blaze** **Honors Mexican Government's Request for Wildland Fire Assistance**

**San Diego** – Governor Schwarzenegger yesterday sent 53 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) firefighters and 10 engines into Baja California to help fight a wildland fire. The group was dispatched from CDF's Monte Vista headquarters in San Diego County, 20 miles north of the border. The firefighters crossed the border at 7 p.m. last night to help fight the Baja wildfire that has burned more than 4,000 acres 40 miles west of San Felipe.

“We want to be able to help where we can best be used,” said CDF Chief Ruben Grijalva. “These CDF firefighters are well trained and their engines are well equipped to provide Mexico with the best help possible.”

The request came to California late Saturday night. Two “strike team” crews, each with five engines and a team leader, became available to assist Mexico when CDF determined that the state could deploy resources while remaining fully staffed here. An additional four firefighters were assigned as support staff to assist with logistical needs for the crews during their assignment in Mexico.

“We have the resources to be able to help our neighbor Mexico fight this fire,” said Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman. “We have a mutual interest to keep people and property safe from wildfires and I believe it is our duty to help our friends.”

An advance team of two CDF fire chiefs and one captain traveled to the scene early Sunday to be briefed and determine where CDF's resources could best be utilized.

The engine crews were staged in Ensenada last night and are being deployed to the fire site today. It is unknown how long the firefighters will be assigned in Mexico.

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