
WEEKLY SITUATIONAL AWARENESS DIGEST

Week of October 5, 2026

Dear CUEA Members,

This week's digest covers the close of the 2026 Early October Heat Event, Tropical Storm Rachel's arrival and the coastal and inland flooding that followed, two new fires in Los Angeles and Kern counties, another round of El Niño proclamations, and the outlook for the week ahead. It draws on Cal OES reporting from October 5 through October 11, 2026, including Tropical Storms Incident Report #3 issued the afternoon of October 11.

This digest is a CUEA member courtesy summary for situational awareness, not an official Cal OES publication — continue to rely on your own agency's direct Cal OES contacts for operational decisions.

This Week at a Glance

- **Heat event closed out.** The Cal OES Situation Cell issued Heat Event Report #8 – FINAL on 10/9. The last Extreme Heat Warnings (western Imperial, Inyo, and eastern San Diego counties) expired that evening, and CAISO's Restricted Maintenance Operations ended after 10/8 with **no Flex Alerts or Energy Emergency Alerts** issued or anticipated.
- **Tropical Storm Rachel brought flooding to Southern California.** Cal OES moved to Enhanced Watch for the 2026 Early October Tropical Storms on 10/9. Rachel reached the coast the night of 10/10. Newport Beach reported flooding, Seal Beach closed its beaches and piers, Long Beach evacuated homes on Seaside Way, and Caltrans closed **SR 78, SR 111, SR 62, and US 95** for flooding and debris.
- **Coastal flooding continues into midweek.** Coastal Flood Advisories run through **Tuesday 10/13** for much of the Southern California coast and parts of the East Bay, and through **Wednesday 10/14** for North Bay, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Monterey shorelines.
- **New fire near a transmission corridor.** The Danny Fire near Gorman (Los Angeles County) closed I-5 on 10/8 and threatened 66 kV transmission lines; that threat was mitigated by 10/11, with the fire 96% contained. The Cyrus Fire near Lake Isabella (Kern County) reached 543 acres, 80% contained.
- **El Niño preparations continue.** The City of Merced proclaimed a local emergency, and Mendocino County, Sonoma County, the City of San Rafael, and Rancho Palos Verdes ratified proclamations. At the 10/5 El Niño Statewide Public Safety Brief, NWS put the chance of a strong El Niño at **more than 99%**.

Grid and Statewide Outage Conditions

Statewide grid conditions stayed stable through the heat event. CAISO kept Restricted Maintenance Operations in place across its balancing area 10/5–10/8 (1000–2200 hours), and forecast peaks fell steadily as temperatures eased. The California Energy Commission reported no petroleum or natural gas supply impacts and no unmet needs all week. Statewide outage figures from the daily heat reports are below; the tropical storm reports did not include statewide outage totals.

Report (Date)	Statewide Outages	Counties with Most Outages	CAISO Forecast Peak
Heat #4 (10/5)	15,047	Los Angeles (4,681), Santa Barbara (4,470), San Diego (1,584)	46,398 MW
Heat #5 (10/6)	6,977	Orange (2,662), Los Angeles (957), Ventura (516)	45,821 MW
Heat #6 (10/7)	11,468	San Mateo (4,037), Contra Costa (1,940), Los Angeles (1,682)	44,780 MW
Heat #7 (10/8)	5,106	Los Angeles (1,209), Alameda (616), Riverside (333)	44,073 MW
Heat #8 – Final (10/9)	5,106	Los Angeles (1,209), Alameda (616), Riverside (333)	37,936 MW; 29,535 MW for 10/10

Outage figures are customer counts as reported by Cal OES at 16:30 each day. CAISO's outlook covers wholesale balancing only; members served by SMUD, LADWP, IID, or other balancing authorities should follow those entities' messaging.

2026 Early October Heat Event (Final)

The long-duration heat event that began 10/2 wound down over the week. Extreme Heat Warnings for western Southern California expired the evening of 10/8, and the remaining warnings ended at 2000 hours on 10/9. Significant cooling began 10/10 with no noteworthy HeatRisk concerns, and the Situation Cell ended daily heat reporting with Report #8.

- **Fire weather:** a Red Flag Warning covered Modoc and Lassen counties on 10/9, and a Fire Weather Watch covered the eastern Sierra Nevada on 10/10.
- **Pre-positioned resources:** heat and fire-weather packages in Los Angeles, Ventura, and San Diego counties expired the morning of 10/9.
- **Looking further ahead:** the Cal OES Advance Planning Unit expects above-normal temperatures for 10/17–10/23 and notes that tropical activity remains a concern while ocean waters stay well above average.

2026 Early October Tropical Storms (Rachel)

Cal OES issued Hurricane Weather Outlooks on 10/7 and 10/8, then opened a daily Tropical Storms incident series on 10/9 (Reports #1–#3 through 10/11). Rachel reached the coast the night of 10/10, and its remnants moved into Nevada on 10/11. Coastal flooding was the main threat throughout, with the worst impacts from Malibu and Long Beach south to the border, peaking around the morning high tides (0900–1030 hours).

- **Rainfall and flash flooding:** as of 10/11, observed totals reached 1.0–3.5 inches in the Transverse Ranges and 0.25–1.5 inches on the South Coast. Flash flood risk eased to slight (level 2 of 4) on 10/11 and marginal (level 1 of 4) on 10/12.
- **Burn scars:** on 10/10, Cal OES Watershed gave the Line and Yucaipa Ridge (Apple/El Dorado) burn scars a 70% chance of exceeding debris-flow thresholds Sunday morning, with possible impacts to

infrastructure and access routes. By the afternoon of 10/11, all four monitored scars had dropped to little or no risk.

- **Rivers and reservoirs:** DWR reports all reservoirs below flood pools. By 10/11, no river forecast points were expected to reach action stage. (On 10/10, the Sacramento River at Rio Vista and the San Diego River at Fashion Valley had been forecast to reach it.)
- **Wind:** gusts of 35–60 mph remain possible across mountains and deserts through the morning of 10/12; gusts near the coast eased below 20 mph on 10/11.
- **Local impacts:** Orange County supplied pumps and sandbags to Newport Beach, and a care and shelter site opened in Costa Mesa. The Imperial County Sheriff is searching for two teens missing in flood waters. The Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, Long Beach, and Malibu remain areas of concern.
- **Activations and proclamations:** EOCs in Newport Beach, Laguna Beach, Orange County, and Imperial County are at Level 3, and Cal OES deployed an Emergency Services Coordinator and a Fire Assistant Chief to the Imperial County EOC. Imperial County and Newport Beach (10/9) and Laguna Beach and Seal Beach (10/10) proclaimed local emergencies.
- **Pre-positioning:** storm-related fire and rescue resources are staged in San Bernardino County (through 10/13) and Imperial County. The Office of Tribal Coordination reported no impacts to tribal nations.

Fires Threatening Utility Infrastructure or Access

- **Danny Fire (Los Angeles County, Gorman, near Hwy 138):** 150 acres. Caltrans closed I-5 on 10/8 between Smokey Bear Road and the SR 138 junction. Cal OES listed a threat to 66 kV transmission lines on 10/9–10/10; by 10/11 that threat and the threat to structures were mitigated, and containment had grown from 29% to 96%. Evacuation orders covered 36 people on 10/9; on 10/10 Cal OES listed 4 orders and 17 warnings.
- **Cyrus Fire (Kern County, Lake Isabella):** grew from 450 acres (0%) on 10/9 to 543 acres (80%) on 10/11 under unified command of the USFS and Kern County Fire; 46 people were under evacuation warnings on 10/10.
- **Bouquet Fire (Los Angeles County, Angeles National Forest):** held at 1,048 acres and reached 83% containment by 10/8, up from 40% in last week's digest.
- **Dome Fire (Mariposa County, Yosemite):** 6,829 acres, 61% contained as of 10/9 (up from 6,760 acres, 40%, on 10/5).
- **Timber Fire (Monterey County, south of Big Sur):** 25,350 acres, 97% contained; evacuation orders and warnings were lifted on 10/9.
- **Preparedness levels** held steady: National 2, Northern California 2, Southern California 3.

Non-Fire Incidents Relevant to Members

- **El Niño proclamations:** Orange County and the Orange County Transportation Authority ratified proclamations (10/5); the City of Merced proclaimed (10/7); Rancho Palos Verdes and Mendocino County ratified (10/7), and Mendocino is no longer requesting state or federal assistance; Sonoma County and the City of San Rafael ratified (10/8). Sonoma County's EOC remains at Level 3 (virtual). Cal OES notes that El Niño moisture raises the potential for heavier precipitation and severe weather this rainy season.
- **El Niño Statewide Public Safety Brief (10/5):** NWS, the State Climatologist, DWR, the Cal OES Advance Planning Unit, Cal OES Recovery, and FEMA briefed partners. NWS put the odds at more than 99% for a strong El Niño, 98% for very strong, and 75% for record-breaking strength, with Southern California favored to be wetter and warmer than normal. Slides and a recording were circulated 10/8; CUEA shared a utility-focused summary on 10/9.
- **Cal OES capabilities:** Cal OES reopened its modernized State Operations Center and announced an agreement with satellite-imaging firm ICEYE for near-real-time imagery of floods, wildfires, and other disasters (shared by the Business Operations Center on 10/6).
- **CalWatch:** Cal OES reports the system has been in use for more than two months and is offering partner office hours on **Thursday, October 15**.
- **EOC activations:** Sacramento County (Golden Mussel) and Orange County remain at Level 3.
- **Security notes (State Threat Assessment Center, unclassified):** on 10/8, DOJ and the FBI seized seven domains tied to two hacking tools linked to the state-sponsored group Flax Typhoon. Targets included a South Carolina power company and Taiwanese energy infrastructure, and the FBI released a cybersecurity advisory to help organizations spot the activity.

Road/Access Closures Affecting Utility Crews

The I-5 closure near Gorman for the Danny Fire was the only Emergency Transportation Route closure in the week's briefings and had cleared by 10/9. As of 10/11, Caltrans reported storm closures with no estimated reopening time on **SR 78** (severe flooding, San Diego/Imperial), **SR 111** (flooding and debris flow), **SR 62**, and **US 95** (Riverside/San Bernardino). Crews heading to inland Southern California should check Caltrans QuickMap before dispatch and expect debris on roads near burn scars.

Weather Outlook for the Week Ahead

- **Southern Region:** lingering showers on 10/12 as Rachel's remnants exit, with below-normal temperatures. NWS Los Angeles expects moderate to damaging coastal flooding through at least Tuesday 10/13. From Tuesday on, weak to moderate offshore flow brings warm, dry weather, and late-week high pressure may produce Santa Ana winds. The Sector Operations Center risk outlook flags heat in the region Thursday through Saturday.
- **Inland Region:** a Red Flag Warning for the Sacramento Valley and foothills runs until 0500 hours 10/12. Temperatures drop 20–25°F behind the cold front, with sub-freezing nights in Sierra and rural interior valleys through Tuesday night. Mountain snow is 60–70% likely above 9,000 feet through Wednesday

morning, locally 4+ inches near Tahoe and Mono County.

- **Coastal Region:** Bay Area Coastal Flood Advisories continue through Wednesday 10/14 at 1600 hours. Enhanced fire danger on the North Coast eases as winds weaken after 10/11.
- **6–14 day outlook (10/16–10/24):** above-normal temperatures favored statewide; below-normal precipitation for the northern two-thirds of the state and near normal for Southern California.

Member actions this week

- Coastal facilities in Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, and Ventura counties: plan inspections of low-lying sites, outfalls, and lift stations around the morning high tides through 10/13–10/14, and log any impacts through normal Cal OES channels.
- Inland Southern California: confirm crew routes against current Caltrans closures (SR 78, SR 111, SR 62, US 95) and conditions near burn scars.
- Sierra and interior valley sites: check freeze protection for exposed piping, generators, and chemical feed lines ahead of sub-freezing nights through Tuesday.
- Southern California: keep routine wildfire-season readiness in place as offshore flow, Santa Ana winds, and heat return late in the week.
- IT and OT teams: review the FBI's Flax Typhoon advisory as part of normal security monitoring.

Source notes: Tropical Storms Report #2 forecast Rachel's landfall over northern Baja California, while Report #3 states it made landfall in Southern California on the night of 10/10. Heat Report #4 repeats the statewide outage figures from Report #3, and Report #8 repeats those from Report #7. Heat Report #6 lists Bouquet Fire evacuation orders and warnings as lifted on 10/7, while briefings through 10/11 list orders as remaining in place. The 10/11 briefing lists Cyrus Fire evacuation orders as remaining in place, while the 10/10 briefing showed zero orders and 46 warnings. The Caltrans closures in Report #3 do not appear in the 10/11 evening briefing's route-closure table. Figures are reported here as they appear in the sources.

Compiled from Cal OES Internal Statewide Incident Briefings and Daily Situation Reports (October 5–11, 2026), Cal OES Weather Threat Briefings and 7-Day Threat Outlooks, 2026 Early October Heat Event Incident Reports #4–#8 (Final), 2026 Early October Hurricanes Weather Outlooks (October 7–8), 2026 Early October Tropical Storms Incident Reports #1–#3 (October 9–11), CAISO grid notices, State Threat Assessment Center reports, the El Niño Statewide Public Safety Brief (October 5), and Cal OES Business Operations Center and CalWatch partner updates. This is a member courtesy digest, not an official Cal OES publication. It is derived from Cal OES reports containing For Official Use Only information; please handle and share it accordingly. Always refer to your own agency's direct Cal OES contacts for operational decisions.

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