

RAWS NETWORK

7811

(July 2015)

CAL FIRE utilizes an extensive network of Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) to monitor fire weather. CAL FIRE's RAWS network is part of the national interagency fire weather network used by Local, State, and Federal fire agencies for Fire Business decision support. Weather data recorded at the RAWS site is transmitted to various national weather data collection points to support fire agencies. These include Fire Danger, Fire Behavior, Firefighter Safety, Fire Business, Air Quality, Research, and many other applications.

RAWS STANDARDS AND COMPLIANCE

7811.1

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CAL FIRE will utilize the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) standards found in [PMS 426-3 Interagency Wildland Fire Weather Station & Standards Guidelines](#). This document sets forth the standards for:

- National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) compliance
- Site selection, station relocation, and site maintenance
- Annual station maintenance and emergency repairs

RAWS FCC LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

7811.2

(July 2015)

Agencies are required to maintain licenses for RAWS stations through the Federal Communications Commission. CAL FIRE obtains licenses through the Office of Emergency Services, Public Safety Communications Office. The CAL FIRE Telecommunications Division works with the CAL FIRE Fire Environment Program Manager in securing these licenses.

CAL FIRE is not responsible to secure licenses for other cooperating agencies.

RAWS LOCATION AND RELOCATION REQUIREMENTS

7811.3

(July 2015)

In addition to NWCG guidelines, the siting and relocating of CAL FIRE RAWS will include consideration of state controlled property, proximity to population, site security, and seasonal access. A Land Use Agreement is required if sited on privately owned land.

RAWS PROCUREMENT

7811.4

(July 2015)

CAL FIRE Units do not have the authority to purchase or add a RAWS or Portable RAWS to the CAL FIRE network. The Unit Fire Environment Point of Contact will advise the Region Fire Environment Point of Contact and the CAL FIRE Fire Environment Program Manager of any needs to replace or add RAWS to the network.

When it is necessary to replace an existing RAWS or place into service a new RAWS, the CAL FIRE Fire Environment Program Manager will coordinate using the appropriate procurement process.

[\(see Next Section\)](#)

[\(see Handbook Table of Contents\)](#)

[\(see Forms and Form Samples\)](#)