# Residents in Northern California Return Home as Firefighters Battle Thompson Fire



Thousands of residents in northern California have been permitted to return home as firefighters continue to combat the Thompson Fire near Oroville in Butte County. The fire, which started on Tuesday, has maintained a 7% containment rate. Kristi Olio, public information officer for Butte County, clarified that 17,000 individuals had been under evacuation orders or warnings, adjusting previous inaccurate reports of 26,000.

The Thompson Fire is approximately 70 miles north of Sacramento and has posed significant challenges due to extreme heat, with temperatures anticipated to reach 42°C. Increased winds are also expected to exacerbate the fire conditions. Four buildings have been destroyed, and more than 12,000 others are threatened.

Four firefighters have sustained heat-related injuries while tackling the blaze. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation. The area has a history of significant fires, including the 2018 Paradise fire and the evacuation following the 2017 failure of the Oroville Dam spillways.

Current efforts against the wildfire are bolstered as more than a dozen other smaller fires burn across California. The state's largest current fire, the Basin Fire in Fresno County, is nearly 50% contained after burning through 22 square miles.