

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Amador-El Dorado Unit

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RELEASE DATE: April 25, 2013

Burn Permits Required on May 1st

Camino – “In 2012, 23% of all wildfires in the Amador-El Dorado Unit of CAL FIRE were caused by residential debris burning. This amounted to a total of 47 fires and 52 acres burned,” says Unit Chief Kelly Keenan of the Amador-El Dorado Unit of CAL FIRE. “Escaped debris burning continues to be our number one cause of wildland fires in Amador and El Dorado Counties. However, by following some simple precautions, the number of escapes can be significantly reduced. Please remember that every debris burn escape is a threat to people, property and natural resources. To reduce *your* risk of causing a wildland fire, review the steps listed below to safely burn your debris piles.” Chief Keenan adds “I strongly encourage *everyone* to get an early start *now* when it is safer to burn the piles versus later in the year when it is riskier to burn due to drier, hotter conditions.”

Safety Tips for Burning:

- Make sure your pile(s) are no larger than four feet by four feet in size,
- Scrape a ten foot wide ring around each debris pile down to bare dirt,
- Have a shovel and water supply (charged hose) close by to use in the event your fire escapes from the pile,
- Make sure an adult is in attendance until the pile is completely extinguished,
- You can only burn on “*permissive burn days*” so make sure to call your local Air Quality Management District **immediately** prior to lighting your pile(s),
- For Amador County please call (209) 223-6246,
- For El Dorado County call (530) 621-5897 or (866) 621-5897.
- For the Lake Tahoe area of El Dorado County call (530) 621-5842 or (888) 332-2876. .
- For Alpine County call (916) 445-0745.

Residential burn permits will be required beginning Wednesday May 1st. These permits are issued to the public FREE of charge, are valid for three years from the date of issuance and allows for the burning of dry vegetation (NOT household

trash) that originates on the landowners property. You can pick up your FREE residential burn permit at most of the local staffed fire stations.

Don't forget that the use of burn barrels is no longer legal in Amador or El Dorado counties. For tips on residential landscape debris burning safety or other fire and life safety topics, please visit the CAL FIRE website at www.fire.ca.gov to view short videos or to download fact sheets.

For alternatives to burning your piles, please contact the Alpine Fire Safe Council at : <http://www.alpinefiresafe.org/>, Amador Fire Safe Council at www.amadorfiresafe.org or the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council at www.edcfiresafe.org for details on their available programs.

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