

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire

Santa Clara Unit



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Isabel Valley Prescribed Burn

Morgan Hill – The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) will be conducting the “Isabel Valley” Prescribed Burn on March 19, 2014 pending favorable weather conditions and approval from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD).

The burn project is located in the Isabel Valley east of Mount Hamilton, approximately 25 miles east of San Jose. Smoke may be visible from Santa Clara Valley, the San Joaquin Valley and Monterey Bay.

CAL FIRE has been conducting prescribed burns for several years. Prescribed burning has many benefits for public and natural resources. These include increased biodiversity, control of noxious weeds, enhanced wildlife habitat and protection against large damaging wildland fires. All prescribed burn projects are conducted under specific weather and fuel conditions to minimize any negative impacts.

During the current drought conditions we take advantage of good weather and optimal fuel moistures to manage the fire load in the Watershed CAL FIRE protects. Minimal water use and ‘dry mop’ techniques will be utilized during the event. By removing high fuel loads with spring burning we not only remove a fire hazard; we also increase the water yield that will flow into surrounding reservoirs during next winter’s storms. By conducting burns in the spring it allows a lower intensity burn on the soils and less damage to the water quality and integrity of the mountains sides as opposed to high intensity fires in the summer.

For additional information, please call (408)779-6611 between the hours of 8AM and 5PM daily.

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