

# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

## California Department of Forestry and Fire

### Santa Clara Unit



**CONTACT:** Public Information  
Officer: 408-201-4378

**RELEASE**  
**DATE:** December 4, 2014

### **CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit Transitions Out of Fire Season**

**Morgan Hill** – Recent rains and cooler temperatures across the region have lowered the threat of wildfires allowing CAL FIRE’s Santa Clara Unit to transition out of fire season effective Monday, December 8, 2014 at 8 a.m. in Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa and the west side of Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties.

Unit Chief Derek Witmer would like to “Thank the public and our local government fire partners for assisting us in achieving our goal of keeping 90 percent of our fires 10 acres or less this fire season.”

As drought conditions continue to have a hold on California, CAL FIRE is maintaining staffing that meets the current threat, as well as strategically moving resources to areas that remain at a higher threat level. CAL FIRE will also continue to monitor weather conditions closely and still has the ability to increase staffing should the weather conditions change or if there is a need to support wildfires in other areas of the State.

The 2014 fire season has been an extremely active year. Statewide CAL FIRE and firefighters from many local agencies battled over 5,500 wildfires within the State Responsibility Area that burned nearly 91,000 acres. This number is over 1,000 more wildfires this year than normal. In the Santa Clara Unit, CAL FIRE responded to 164 wildfires that charred 666 acres.

Residents are urged to still take precautions outdoors in order to prevent sparking a wildfire. A leading cause of wildfires this time of year is from escaped agricultural burning. Before you burn, ensure it’s a permissive burn day in the bay area by contacting the Bay Area Air Quality Management District or if you live in Stanislaus or San Joaquin County then contact the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and then make sure you have any and all required burn permits. During burning make sure that piles of agricultural debris are no larger than established restrictions additionally provide a 10 foot clearance down to bare mineral soil around the burn pile and that a responsible adult is in attendance at all times with a water source and a shovel.

For more ways to prevent sparking a wildfire visit [www.ReadyForWildfire.org](http://www.ReadyForWildfire.org).

###