

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

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

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Don't Get Burned

Camino – “In the last few weeks we have had multiple escaped debris pile burns, sometimes 6 or more in a single day, from local residents burning their burn piles. 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” cautions Amador-El Dorado Unit Chief Keenan of CAL FIRE who adds “it may be a good idea to simply cover the piles and wait until we are out of fire season and have a few inches of rain on the ground before burning.”

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 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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