

# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

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

CONTACT: Teri Mizuhara 530.708.2724

RELEASE DATE: 4-19-2012

### Residential Burn Permits Required May 1st

**Camino** – Unit Chief Kelly Keenan of the Amador-El Dorado Unit of CAL FIRE wants to remind everyone that “last year 23% of our wildland fires in Amador and El Dorado counties were from residential landscape debris piles that escaped the control of the person in charge causing wildland fires. To reduce *your* risk of causing a wildland fire, take steps today to safely burn your debris piles when the ground is still damp from the recent storms. I strongly encourage *everyone* to get an early start *now* when it is safe to burn the piles versus later in the year when it is riskier to burn residential landscape debris piles 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.

Residential burn permits will be required beginning Tuesday May 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](http://www.fire.ca.gov) to view short videos or to download fact sheets.

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