

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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CAL FIRE Issues Statewide Burn Ban

Dry Conditions and Increased Fire Activity Lead to Burning Suspension

Sacramento - California's increased fire activity, coupled with the current weather forecast for continued heightened fire danger, has prompted CAL FIRE to suspend all burning permits and open fire within the State Responsibility Area of California. The Burn Ban suspends all residential burn permits, forest management, hazard abatement, and other industrial-type permitted burning within the 31 million acres of State Responsibility Area.

"Over 8,000 CAL FIRE, local and federal firefighters are on the frontlines of nearly a dozen major wildfires that are burning across California," said Chief Ken Pimlott, CAL FIRE Director. "With conditions being so dry, we need to take every step possible to prevent new wildfires from starting."

Campfires within organized campgrounds or on private property are allowed if they are in a designated campfire site that prevents fire from spreading outside the site. The burning suspension will remain in effect until there is a significant change in weather conditions or until the end of fire season.

The last two years have been relatively light for wildfires due in part to favorable weather patterns, but this year California has experienced an increase in fires statewide. Historically, the fall months are when the largest and most damaging wildfires occur, so CAL FIRE is urging residents to do their part to be fire safe during this critical time and to make sure they have prepared an emergency plan in case a fire threatens their home or family.

Here are some tips all citizens can use to prevent wildfires:

- Do Defensible Space clearing before 10 a.m. and never on a hot and windy day.
- DON'T toss cigarettes out your car window.
- Don't pull off into dry grass or brush. Hot exhaust pipes and mufflers can start fires that can't be seen easily by the driver.
- Check with local officials for additional fire restrictions. Check with local officials for additional fire restrictions
- In wildland areas, spark arresters are required on all portable gasoline powered equipment. This includes tractors, chainsaws, weed eaters, mowers, motorcycles and All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)
- Report any suspicious activity. Call the CAL FIRE Arson Hotline: 1-800-468-4408.

Nearly ninety-five percent of all wildland fires within CAL FIRE's jurisdiction are human-caused and CAL FIRE is asking the public to do their part in preventing wildfires. For more fire safety tips visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org or the CAL FIRE website at www.fire.ca.gov.