

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



Santa Clara Unit

CONTACT: Public Information
Officer: 408-201-4378

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CAL FIRE Suspends Burn Permits in Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa Counties and the Western portions of Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties

Morgan Hill – After another wet winter, warming temperatures and winds are quickly drying out the abundant annual grass crop. The increasing fire danger posed by the high volume of dead grass and hotter, drier conditions in the region is prompting CAL FIRE to suspend all burn permits for outdoor residential burning within the State Responsibility Area of Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa and the western portions of Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties. This suspension takes effect June 18, 2018 and bans all residential outdoor burning of landscape debris such as branches and leaves.

“This year is turning out to be just as volatile as last year. The public cannot let their guard down and must continue to be involved in preparation efforts for the upcoming wildfires,” said Chief Ken Pimlott, CAL FIRE director. “Again, this year the abundant dead grass will only serve as a fuse to the heavier vegetation still suffering the lasting effects of over five years of drought.”

Santa Clara Unit Chief Derek J. Witmer would like to remind everyone “All residents need to be “Ready” by maintaining 100 feet of Defensible Space around their home by removing all dead or dying grass and brush.”

Since January 1, 2018 CAL FIRE and firefighters across the state have already responded to over 1,860 wildfires. While outdoor burning of landscape debris by homeowners is no longer allowed, CAL FIRE is asking residents to take that extra time to ensure that they are prepared for wildfires by maintaining a minimum of 100 feet of Defensible Space around every home and building on their property and being prepared to evacuate if the time comes.

The department may issue restricted temporary burning permits if there is an essential reason due to public health and safety. Agriculture, land management, fire training, and other industrial-type burning may proceed if a CAL FIRE official inspects the burn site and issues a special permit.

The suspension of burn permits for residential landscape debris does not apply to campfires within organized campgrounds or on private property. Campfires may be permitted if the campfire is maintained in such a manner as to prevent its spread to the wildland. A campfire permit can be obtained at local fire stations or online at PreventWildfireCA.org.

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