



State of California  
 The Natural Resources Agency  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**PROJECT TITLE:** Emergency Landing Zone and Defensible Space around CAL FIRE Lookout and Vault

**PROJECT LOCATION** Mount Konocti Access Road – East of the Town of Kelseyville      **COUNTY** Lake

**LEAD AGENCY** California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

**CONTACT** Greg Bertelli, Battalion Chief

**ADDRESS** CAL FIRE: Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit      **PHONE** (707) 967-1400  
 1199 Big Tree Road, St. Helena CA 94574

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The three project sites are located East of the town of Kelseyville, on the access road to Mount Konocti. Native vegetation is primarily brush (mostly chemise with scattered Manzanita) and scattered pines along the upper elevations. The project consists of creating and maintaining room to land a helicopter in the case of a medical emergency or evacuation due to a wild land fire. There will be two separate sites for emergency evacuation. The first site will be at the intersection of Konocti road and Buckingham Peak access road and the second will be at Konocti road and Howard's Peak access road. The emergency landing zone sites are currently leased to the County of Lake, which has allowed public access to the mountain. The third project site will maintain defensible space around the CAL FIRE lookout, vault and repeater on Wright's Peak. All work will be performed utilizing CALFIRE hand crews to create an acceptable footprint around CAL FIRE assets at Wright's Peak and acceptable rotor clearance in the event the Landing Zones are needed. Brush will be cut to less than 2' but will not be removed. Some taller Live oak and Knobcone pine trees will be removed (cut) to allow for a safe landing for helicopters. Brush and trees within 100 feet of the lookout will be cut to less than 2'. A shaded fuel break (thinning Knobcone pine less than eight inches in diameter to twelve to sixteen feet apart) will be created beginning at 100' from the fire lookout/communications vault to 200' away and encompass the 100 to 200 foot perimeter area around the structures. No ground disturbance will occur around the site. Some pile burning may occur.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 (i)
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

**REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT**

This project fits under portions of Class 4 §15304 (i) Minor Alterations to Land. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit Headquarters, 1199 Big Tree Road, St. Helena CA 94574.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED

AUG 19 2013

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

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 William E. Snyder, Deputy Director      Date 8/14/13  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection