



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	MEU Wildland Fire Chainsaw Training		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Approximately 1.5-miles SE of the CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit HQ Address: 16200 North Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490 Legal Description: T17N, R13W, Sections 9, 16; MDB & M	<b>COUNTY</b>	Mendocino
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Louis Sciocchetti, Forester II		707-961-1494 (Office)
<b>ADDRESS</b>	CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit 17501 North Highway 101 Willits, CA 95490	<b>PHONE</b>	707-391-6750 (Cellular)

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project consists of tree cutting of selected trees by CAL FIRE personnel for the purpose of obtaining wildland fire chainsaw skills and proficiency. The trees are located on privately-owned timberland. Trees to be felled consist of dead conifers and hardwoods in an area that burned in a 2012 wildfire. The project area totals approximately 45 acres. It will involve less than 20% of the tree canopy within the project area. The project will be implemented within a multi-year time frame. The project will allow new and re-certifying CAL FIRE personnel the opportunity to practice tactical application of chain saws in brushing, limbing, bucking and falling for fireline construction and mop-up operations. This training will occur under simulated fireline conditions, with personnel wearing appropriate personal protective equipment. Slash generated as a result of falling activity will be lopped for fire hazard reduction.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption**                      Type/Section: Class 4; 15304(a) Minor Alteration to Land
- 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**

The proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) was searched and no rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species were identified on the project site that will be negatively impacted by this project. The CAL FIRE Area Archaeologist has been consulted and has determined that this project is exempt from further archaeological review.

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 Mendocino Unit, Resource Management, 17501 N. Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490, Attn. Environmental Coordinator

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

*Helge Eng*      4/28/16

Helge Eng, Deputy Director                      Date  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE