



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Sonoma M.A.D. Training Burn		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	T4N, R6W, Sec. 18 and 19; T4N, R7W, Sec. 13, 14, 23, 24, and 25, Mt. Diablo Base & Meridian	<b>COUNTY</b>	Marin
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Megan Scheeline, Forester I		
<b>ADDRESS</b>	CAL FIRE Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit HQ 1199 Big Tree Road, St. Helena CA 94574	<b>PHONE</b>	(707) 967-1428

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Two prescribed burns are proposed within the Sonoma M.A.D project area. The first is a Multi-Agency Drill (M.A.D.), consisting of broadcast burning of grasslands in order to train firefighting personnel in the proper procedures of firing techniques, mobile attack, and hand tool usage to control wildland fires. The goal of the Multi-Agency Drill is improved communication, response, and incident management by area-wide emergency partners. The training will be led by the Sonoma County Fire Chiefs, with cooperators including the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), Marin County Fire Department, Novato Fire District, Wilmar Volunteer Fire Department, San Antonio Volunteer Fire Department, Petaluma Fire Department, Lakeville Volunteer Fire Department, Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District, and Goldridge Fire Protection District. This training will treat approximately nine acres annually. The second prescribed burn proposed within the Sonoma M.A.D. project area is the FI-210 Wildland Fire Cause and Determination class. In the class, students work as a team to investigate and document a wildland fire, including determining the fire origin, collecting evidence, conducting interviews, and documenting the case. Eight grassland plots, each up to a quarter acre in size (approximately 2 acres annually), will be burned during the class in order to allow the students to practice determining the origin and cause of wildfires.

The proposed project is located within a privately-owned ranch in Marin County, just south of the Sonoma-Marin County line, approximately seven miles southeast of the town of Petaluma, CA. Nine acres are scheduled to be burned for the Multi-Agency Drill and up to two acres will be burned during the Wildland Fire Cause and Determination class in 2014. Similar acreages are expected to be treated annually.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304  
Minor Alterations 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**

This project fits under the description for a Class 4 Categorical Exemption to CEQA. 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 (Attention VMP Forester), 1199 Big Tree Road, St. Helena CA 94574.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**



Duane Shintaku 5/30/14  
 Deputy Director, Resource Management Date  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection