
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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CAL FIRE Suspends Burn Permits

Felton – After a wet winter, warming temperatures 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 San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Cruz.

This suspension takes effect Saturday, July 1, 2017 at 12:01 a.m. and bans all outdoor burning except for campfires within organized campgrounds or on private property with landowner permission. 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 and online at PreventWildfireCA.org.

As the fourth of July is approaching, residents and visitors are advised that fireworks are illegal to possess within San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties. Safe and sane fireworks are allowed only within the city limits of San Bruno, Pacifica, Capitola and Watsonville.

“We are asking that residents not be lulled into a false sense of security on the heels of an exceptionally wet winter,” said Chief Ken Pimlott, CAL FIRE director. “The abundant dead grass will only serve as a fuse to the heavier vegetation still suffering the lasting effects of 5 years of extreme drought.”

Since January 1, 2017 CAL FIRE and firefighters across the state have already responded to over 2,046 wildfires. While outdoor burning is no longer allowed, CAL FIRE is asking residents to ensure that they are prepared for wildfires by maintaining a minimum of 100 feet of Defensible Space around every home.

Here are some tips to help prepare homes and property:

- Clear all dead and or dying vegetation 100 feet from around all structures.
- Landscape with fire resistant/drought tolerant plants.
- Find an alternative way to dispose of debris such as chipping or composting.

For additional information on how to create Defensible Space, as well as tips to prevent wildfires, visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org.

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.

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