



CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department

Also proudly serving the Cities of Biggs and Gridley and the Town of Paradise

NEWS RELEASE

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CAL FIRE Suspends Burn Permits in Butte County

Butte County- California is entering its second consecutive dry year and braces for what could be another devastating wildfire season. Lower than average precipitation through the winter, combined with warm spring temperatures, has led to a reduced snowpack and earlier spring snowmelt. These conditions have combined to decrease fuel moisture in the vegetation and make forests more susceptible to severe wildfire.

The increasing fire danger posed by dead grass and hotter, drier conditions in the region is prompting CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department to suspend all burn permits for outdoor residential burning within the State Responsibility Area of Butte County, as well as the unincorporated lands in the Local Responsibility Area of the county. This suspension takes effect at 6:00 am on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 and bans all residential outdoor burning of landscape debris such as branches and leaves.

“Last year, California experienced its most destructive fire season in the state’s known history. Together, we must continue to adapt and evolve to be able to withstand the intensity of these fires, keeping in mind that the only way to minimize the damage they cause is through education, prevention and mitigation efforts,” said Chief Thom Porter, CAL FIRE Director. “We are relying on the public to be ready.”

Since January 1, 2021, CAL FIRE and firefighters across the state have responded to more than 2600 wildfires.

“We always intend to allow homeowners the ability to burn their vegetation for as long as possible. Unfortunately, the dry fuel conditions and hotter temperatures are forcing the suspension earlier than we would like. We have already responded to many escaped control burns and powered equipment-caused fires in Butte County,” said John Messina, Butte Unit Chief. “The hotter and drier it gets, the more potential these fires have of becoming major, destructive incidents. However, there are still many things you can do to protect yourself and your property.”

While outdoor burning of landscape debris by homeowners is no longer allowed, CAL FIRE is asking residents to take that extra time to ensure 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.

Here are some tips to prepare homes and property:

- Clear all dead and/or dying vegetation within 100 feet of all structures.
- Landscape with fire resistant plants and non-flammable ground cover.

- Find alternative ways to dispose of landscape debris like chipping or hauling it to a green waste facility.

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. In addition, CAL FIRE may continue conducting Vegetation Management Project (VMP) burns in Butte County after the burn permit suspension goes into effect. These VMP burns will be conducted in accordance with section 4423.2 of the Public Resources Code where it can be shown that burning or use of open fire is essential for reasons of public health, safety, or welfare. CAL FIRE resources will remain at scene during these control burns.

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 online at PreventWildfireCA.org.

For more information on how to be prepared for wildfires, like creating Defensible Space, Home Hardening, and Evacuation Planning, as well as tips to prevent wildfires, visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org.

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