
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



San Benito-Monterey Unit

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CAL FIRE Suspends Burn Permits in San Benito, Monterey Counties

Monterey, CA – Fire behavior has increased in recent incidents. Significant fire weather is forecasted in many parts of the state, including Red Flag Warnings across much of southern California. With the lack of meaningful precipitation across much of the central coast, CAL FIRE will suspend all burn permits within the State Responsibility Area and Local Responsibility Areas under contract with CAL FIRE, in San Benito and Monterey Counties. This suspension takes effect January 14, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. and bans all residential outdoor burning of landscape debris. This suspension will remain in place until conditions abate.

“2020 saw over 4 million acres burn in California. The lack of precipitation reminds us that the public cannot let their guard down. The recent vegetation fires in San Benito and Monterey Counties showcase the importance of defensible space,” said Reno DiTullio Jr, CAL FIRE San Benito-Monterey Unit Chief. “Please protect your life and property, as well as the lives of firefighters, by creating and maintaining a minimum of 100 feet of defensible space. We’re ready for wildfire; are you?” Since January 1, 2021, CAL FIRE and firefighters across the state have already responded to over 75 wildfires that have burned over 50 acres. “We can’t predict when and where a wildfire will start, but all of us can prepare. Visit ReadyForWildfire.org,” said DiTullio.

CAL FIRE asks residents to be prepared for wildfires including maintaining a minimum of 100 feet of Defensible Space around every home. Here are some tips to help prepare your home and property:

- Clear all dead or dying vegetation 100 feet around all structures.
- Landscape with fire resistant/drought tolerant plants
- Find alternative ways to dispose of landscape debris like chipping or hauling it to a biomass energy facility

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. Persons burning under any special permit must also check with the Monterey Bay Air Resources District for additional regulations and requirements.

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 at local fire stations or online at PreventWildfireCA.org.

For additional information on preparing for and preventing wildfires visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org.

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MEDIA ONLY For further information on CAL FIRE's response to incidents in San Benito and Monterey Counties, please contact the San Benito-Monterey Unit Public Information Officer at (831) 647-6257 or BEU.PIO@fire.ca.gov.