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# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



## San Benito-Monterey Unit

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Unit Information Officer

**RELEASE DATE:** April 14, 2015

### **CAL FIRE Declares Burn Ban in San Benito and Monterey Counties**

**Monterey, CA** – As drought conditions continue to increase fire danger in the region, CAL FIRE has suspended 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 April 14, 2015 and bans all residential outdoor burning of landscape debris including branches and leaves.

“The recent vegetation fires in San Benito and Monterey Counties are stark reminders of the importance of defensible space,” said Brennan Blue, 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 defensible space.” To date in 2015, CAL FIRE has responded to 18 vegetation fires in San Benito and Monterey Counties, during a period of the year when there are usually 0-3 vegetation fires. Of these, 6 have been escapes of prescribed burns by property owners.

“With record-setting drought conditions we must take every step possible to prevent new wildfires from starting,” said Chief Ken Pimlott, CAL FIRE director. “One Less Spark, means One Less Wildfire.”

Similar to last year, CAL FIRE has already responded to significantly more wildfires than in an average year. CAL FIRE is asking residents to ensure that they are 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, 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. Campfires are allowed in designated campgrounds, or in established facilities on private property with permission of the landowner and jurisdictional authority. Persons burning under any special permit must also check with the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District for addition regulations and requirements.

For additional information on preparing for and preventing wildfires visit [www.ReadyForWildfire.org](http://www.ReadyForWildfire.org).

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Attached is the official proclamation.



**California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**  
**PROCLAMATION SUSPENDING OPEN BURNING**

In the CAL FIRE  
**San Benito/Monterey Unit**

Including all State Responsibility Areas and Local Responsibility Areas under contract to CAL FIRE  
within San Benito and Monterey Counties

Due to the extreme menace of wildfire and its potential to destroy life, property, and natural resources; and due to current and predicted fire weather, the lack of precipitation, the dryness of vegetation, and the increase fire activity; “unusual fire conditions” exist as described in Section 4423(b) of the Public Resources Code. Per that section and under the authority vested in me by the Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, I declare that burn permits are required for all open burning, except for campfires, until further notice. In addition, under the authority vested in me by the Director as per Section 4423.1 of the Public Resources Code, I hereby suspend, except within incorporated cities, the privileges of burning by permit and other use of open fire, with the following exceptions:

- Agricultural, forest management, fire training, vegetation management, and other industrial-type burning may proceed after a CAL FIRE official has inspected the burn site and issued a special permit.
- Campfires within organized campgrounds or on private property are allowed with landowner permission if the campfire is maintained in such a manner as to prevent the campfire from spreading to the wildland vegetation.

This suspension will begin at 8:00 AM Tuesday, April 14, 2015, and will continue in place until formally cancelled.

This PROCLAMATION is issued at Monterey, California, this 13th day of April 2015.

By:

Unit Chief  
Brennan Blue  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

-Attachment-  
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