

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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CAL FIRE Urges Extra Safety over Labor Day Weekend

Sacramento – As Labor Day weekend approaches, millions of people will visit outdoor recreation areas throughout California. In anticipation of the increased outdoor activities, CAL FIRE officials are urging everyone to exercise extra caution and be safe this holiday weekend.

Wildfires continue to burn in northern California and much of the state remains at high risk for wildfires. Over 500,000 acres have burned in California so far this year. The potential for additional large, destructive fires only increases as we approach fall. Residents and visitors to the recreational areas of California need to be extremely cautious and avoid starting any new fires while enjoying the last long weekend of summer with their friends and families. Due to existing or recent fires many areas are closed to visitors and campers. If you are planning to visit one of the National Forests within California, please contact the Forest Area Office directly to obtain current information on their closures and fire restrictions.

A state-wide burn ban has been in effect since August 15, 2012 for all statewide responsibility areas. All residential “dooryard” burning, forest management, hazard abatement, and other industrial-type burning is suspended until further notice. Campfires are only allowed in designated campgrounds.

Wildfires are not the only danger posed by the outdoors; drowning also dramatically increase during the Labor Day weekend. CAL FIRE responds to water rescues all across the state, many of which tragically claim the lives of both adults and children.

CAL FIRE urges everyone to follow these important safety tips this holiday weekend:

Camping:

- Obtain necessary permits needed for campfires and adhere to any restrictions
- Clear away grass, leaves and other debris within a 10-foot perimeter of any campfire
- Have a responsible person in attendance at all times while campfire in use
- Ensure all campfires are **completely extinguished** before leaving
- When barbequing, never leave the grill unattended

In the Water:

- Always wear a life jacket!
- Children should always be supervised by a responsible adult
- Never swim alone
- Drinking and swimming is just as dangerous as drinking and driving.

For more ways to be safe during the Labor Day Weekend visit the CAL FIRE website at www.fire.ca.gov.

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