
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



San Benito-Monterey Unit

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CAL FIRE Burn Permit Suspension Lifted in San Benito and Monterey Counties

Monterey, CA – Effective Monday, October 31, 2016 at 8:00 a.m., the burn permit suspension in San Benito and Monterey Counties will be lifted. CAL FIRE San Benito-Monterey Unit Chief Brennan Blue is formally cancelling the burn permit suspension and advises that those possessing current and valid agriculture and residential burn permits can now resume burning on permissible burn days. Agriculture burns must be inspected by CAL FIRE prior to burning until the end of the peak fire season. Inspections may be required for burns other than agriculture burns as well. This can be verified by contacting the Monterey Bay Air Resources District.

CAL FIRE burn permits will be required until the end of peak fire season. While cooler temperatures and recent rain have helped to diminish the threat of wildfire, we are still in our fourth year of drought. Property owners and residents are asked to use caution while conducting debris or agriculture burns. Always use caution when burning, follow all guidelines provided, and maintain control of the fire at all times. Individuals can be held civilly and/or criminally liable for allowing a fire to escape their control and/or burn onto neighboring property. "This year saw devastating fire with the Soberanes and Chimney fires, following on the heels of with the Tassajara and Cienega fires of 2015," said Chief Blue. "Fire threat remains elevated, with fuel conditions maintaining a high potential for devastating fires. Burn permits may be suspended in the future, based upon weather conditions." Inspections will be required for agricultural and range improvement (RI) burn permits.

Residents wishing to burn MUST verify it is a permissive burn day prior to burning. Contact Monterey Bay Air Resources District at 831-647-9411

Pile Burning Requirements

- Only dry, natural vegetative material such tree trimmings may be burned.
- The burning of trash, painted wood, or other debris is not allowed.
- Do **NOT** burn on windy days.
- Piles should be no larger than four feet in diameter and in height. You can add to pile as it burns down.
- Clear a 10 foot diameter down to bare soil around your piles.
- Have a shovel and a water source nearby.
- An adult is required to be in attendance of the fire at all times.

Safe residential pile burning of forest residue by landowners is a crucial tool in reducing fire hazards. State, Federal and Local land management and fire agencies will also be utilizing this same window of opportunity to conduct prescribed burns aimed at improving forest health on private and public lands.

For more information on burning, visit the CAL FIRE website at www.fire.ca.gov.

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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.