



CLEAN ROADS MEANS CLEAR WATER AND WILDFIRE RESILIENCE

Californians must take action to protect themselves and their communities this summer from wildfires and reduce stormwater pollution. That's why CAL FIRE and CleanWaterCA.com are teaming up and offering simple ways to reduce fire risks and improve water quality.

No butts! Properly dispose of cigarettes.

Cigarette butts are the most littered item on Earth and in California. They are a major stormwater pollutant that get flushed by heavy rains into local rivers, lakes and the ocean, as well as notorious for igniting wildfires. Tossed from a vehicle, a smoldering cigarette butt is likely to roll from roadways into dry grass or roadside vegetation and can spark a devastating wildfire in seconds.

Here's what you can do instead:

- Always use your vehicle's ashtray or a designated non-flammable receptacle.
- Upon arrival at your destination, properly dispose of butts in cigarette receptacles, which are specifically designed to discard butts safely.



Tune up your vehicle regularly.

Mechanical failures, dragging parts, or hot exhaust systems on vehicles are another common cause of roadside fires. Take these steps to limit the risk of unanticipated ignitions:

- Before you start your drive, inspect your vehicle for loose or dragging components (like mufflers, catalytic converters, or chains). Pay special attention to your tires and wheel hubs; bad tires or bald hubs can cause sparks.
- Avoid driving or parking over dry grass or flammable vegetation, as hot exhaust systems can easily ignite fires.
- Promptly address any fluid leaks. Flammable auto fluids pose a significant fire risk as well as can contaminate stormwater runoff that flows untreated directly into our waterways.



A cleaner roadside is a safer roadside, directly improving our wildfire resilience, and leading to healthier waterways. By adopting these critical fire-prevention habits, Californians can save lives, safeguard property, and protect our precious water resources all at once.

For more information on wildfire prevention and to prepare your home and family, please visit <https://www.fire.ca.gov/prepare>.

