



CAL FIRE

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Webinar Series

July 10, 2023

Featuring:
Campfire Safety



Welcome!

- ▶ The purpose of this webinar series is to host a live and interactive platform to discuss and educate on Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation (CWPM) topics directly from our Office of the State Fire Marshal CWPM Staff.
- ▶ More information on the webinar series can be found any time at:
 - osfm.fire.ca.gov/wildfire-public-education/
 - If you experience technical difficulties during this presentation, please contact Kara Garrett at (916) 201-5539 or Kara.Garrett@fire.ca.gov.



Campfire Safety

Speaker Introduction

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Resources can be found at:

<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prevent-wildfire/campfire-safety/>





Campfire Safety

Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Webinar

Using a campfire is an activity that can add a lot of fun and enjoyment to camping trips. However, it is also important to remember that fires must be managed safely to prevent accidents and fires. Campfire safety is an essential part of any camping experience. By keeping safety in mind, you can have a safe and enjoyable experience while using a campfire.

Regulations

What does it mean when CAL FIRE suspends burn permits in the Summer? Are you still allowed to have a campfire?



Campfire in the Forest

Public Resource Code 4423.1

Per Public Resource Code (PRC) 4423.1, during certain times of the year, when fire danger is high, residential debris burning of dead vegetation is unsafe. Homeowners should always check with their local CAL FIRE station and local air quality management agency before burning.

PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE - PRC

DIVISION 4. FORESTS, FORESTRY AND RANGE AND FORAGE LANDS [4001 - 4958] (*Division 4 repealed and added by Stats. 1965, Ch. 1144.*)

PART 2. PROTECTION OF FOREST, RANGE AND FORAGE LANDS [4101 - 4789.7] (*Part 2 added by Stats. 1965, Ch. 1144.*)

CHAPTER 6. Prohibited Activities [4411 - 4446] (*Chapter 6 added by Stats. 1965, Ch. 1144.*)

ARTICLE 2. Prohibited Activities [4421 - 4446] (*Article 2 added by Stats. 1965, Ch. 1144.*)

4423.1. (a) Burning under permit by a person on public or private lands, except within incorporated cities, may be suspended, restricted, or otherwise prohibited by proclamation. Any of the following public officers may issue a proclamation, which shall be applicable within their respective jurisdictions:

(1) The director or the director's designee.

(2) Any county fire warden with the approval of the director.

(3) The federal officers directing activities within California of the United States Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and the United States Forest Service.

(b) The proclamation may be issued when, in the judgment of the issuing public official, the menace of destruction by fire to life, improved property, or natural resources is, or is forecast to become, extreme due to critical fire weather, fire suppression forces being heavily committed to control fires already burning, acute dryness of the vegetation, or other factors that may cause the rapid spread of fire. A proclamation is effective on issuance or at a time specified therein and shall remain in effect until a proclamation removing the suspension, restriction, or prohibition is issued. The proclamation may be effective for a single day or longer. The proclamation shall declare the conditions that necessitate its issuance, designate the geographic area to which it applies, require that all or specified burning under permit be suspended, restricted, or prohibited until the conditions necessitating the proclamation abate, and identify the public official issuing the proclamation. The proclamation may be in the form of a verbal or audio recorded telephone message, a press release, or a posted order.

(c) The proclamation may be issued without complying with Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) and Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

(Amended by Stats. 2021, Ch. 133, Sec. 75. (SB 272) Effective July 23, 2021.)

[Law section \(ca.gov\)](#)

CAL FIRE has suspended burning in most areas of the state.

Visit [Current Burn Status \(ca.gov\)](#) to check the current burn status in your area.

[Translate](#)[Settings](#)[Apply](#)[Before you Burn](#)[Current Burn Status](#)

PLEASE NOTE: If the status in your county is marked as "Burning Allowed", you still must confirm that it is a permissive burn day with your local air quality management agency. The contact phone numbers will appear on your permit.

Administrative Unit	Status	Effective	Area
Amador-El Dorado Unit			
Amador County	Burning Suspended	Effective, June 26, 2023 at 8:00 AM	All SRA
El Dorado County	Burning Suspended	Effective, June 26, 2023 at 8:00 AM	All SRA
Alpine County	Burning Suspended	Effective, June 26, 2023 at 8:00 AM	All SRA
Sacramento County	Burning Suspended	Effective, June 26, 2023 at 8:00 AM	All SRA
Butte Unit			
Butte County	Burning Suspended	Effective, June 26, 2023 at 8:00 AM	All SRA
Fresno-Kings Unit			
Fresno County	Burning Suspended	Effective, June 26, 2023 at 8:00 AM	All SRA
Kings County	Burning Suspended	Effective, June 26, 2023 at 8:00 AM	All SRA
Humboldt-Del Norte Unit			
Del Norte County	Permit Required	Effective, May 1, 2023 at 8:00 AM	All SRA
Humboldt County	Permit Required	Effective, May 1, 2023 at 8:00 AM	All SRA
Western Trinity County	Permit Required	Effective, May 1, 2023 at 8:00 AM	All SRA

Public Resource Code 4423.3

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.

PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE - PRC
DIVISION 4. FORESTS, FORESTRY AND RANGE AND FORAGE LANDS [4001 - 4958] (Division 4 repealed and added by Stats. 1965, Ch. 1144.)
PART 2. PROTECTION OF FOREST, RANGE AND FORAGE LANDS [4101 - 4700.7] (Part 2 added by Stats. 1965, Ch. 1144.)
CHAPTER 5. Prohibited Activities [4411 - 4440] (Chapter 5 added by Stats. 1965, Ch. 1144.)
ARTICLE 2. Prohibited Activities [4421 - 4440] (Article 2 added by Stats. 1965, Ch. 1144.)
4423.3. The use of a campfire is not restricted or prohibited by a proclamation issued pursuant to Section 4423.1, unless specifically restricted or prohibited in that or a subsequent proclamation. If restricted by proclamation, campfires shall be confined to facilities constructed for that purpose within the confines of a campground established, maintained, and open for public use, whether publicly or privately owned.
(Amended by Stats. 1988, Ch. 270, Sec. 7.)

[Law section \(ca.gov\)](#)

Public Resource Code 4432

Neglecting A Campfire - A person shall not leave a campfire, kindled or attended by him or her, burning or unextinguished unless one of the following requirements are satisfied:

A. He or she leaves some person in attendance.

B. The fire is enclosed within a stove, oven, drum, or other nonflammable container, in such manner that the fire cannot escape from the container.

No person shall allow a campfire, kindled or attended by him or her to spread after it is built.

Public Resource Code 4433

Permits Required - A person shall not light, maintain, or use a campfire upon any brush-covered land, grass-covered land, or forest-covered land which is the property of another person unless he or she first obtains a written permit from the owner, lessee, or agent of the owner or lessee of the property. If, however, campsites and special areas have been established by the property owner and

posted as areas for camping, a permit is not necessary. A written campfire permit, duly issued by or under the authority of the United States Forest Service, is necessary for use on land under the jurisdiction and control of the United States Forest Service.



Public Resource Code 4434

Campfire Escape - The escape of any campfire from the control of any person who is maintaining the campfire is prima facie evidence that such person was negligent in maintaining the campfire

Escaped Campfire in Sierra National Forest



Health and Safety Codes

13007 - Liability for Damage

Any person, who personally or allows another person to willfully, negligently or in violation of law, set fire to, allows fire to be set to, or allows a fire kindled or attended by him or her to escape to the property of another, whether privately or publicly owned, is liable to the property's owner for any damages caused by the fire.



13008 - Due Diligence Required

Any person who allows a fire burning upon his or her property to escape to the property of another, whether privately or publicly owned, without exercising due diligence to control such fire, is liable to the owner of such property for the damages to the property caused by the fire.



13009 - Expense of Fighting Fires, Liability for

Any person who negligently, or in violation of the law, sets a fire, allows a fire to be set, allows a fire kindled or attended by him or her to escape onto any public or

private property will be financially responsible for the firefighting costs.



Campfire Regulations

You must have a California Campfire Permit to use a stove, lantern, or campfire outside a developed campground or recreation area.

Campfire Permits are required for open fires, such as campfire, barbecues and portable stoves on federally controlled lands and private lands that are the property of another person.

On private lands, written permission from the landowner is also required for campfire use.



CALIFORNIA CAMPFIRE PERMIT

PERMIT EXPIRES DECEMBER 31 OF THE YEAR IN WHICH IT WAS ISSUED

Permit Holder's Name

is authorized to build a campfire on federal public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management or the USDA Forest Service subject to restrictions in place at the time. National and State Parks require special campfire permits.

USING A CAMPFIRE SAFELY

Go to www.PreventWildfireCA.org for more campfire information.

"Campfire" means a fire which is used for cooking, personal warmth, lighting, ceremonial, or aesthetic purposes, including fires contained within outdoor fireplaces and enclosed stoves with flues or chimneys, stoves using jellied, liquid, solid, or gaseous fuels, portable barbeque pits, and space heating devices, which are used outside any structure.



- Know and comply with all current fire restrictions for the area where you plan to use a campfire.
- Clear all flammable materials from the ground for 5 feet in all directions from the edge of the fire. Keep a shovel and water nearby.
- Keep the fire small – Think of the fire in a cube 2 feet x 2 feet x 2 feet.
- Always personally supervise the campfire until it is completely extinguished, or ensure that another knowledgeable and responsible adult supervises the fire.
- Always personally make sure the fire is dead out and completely cold before you leave it unattended. Extinguish the fire with water and a shovel using the "drown, stir, and feel" method.



You are legally responsible and may be liable for fire suppression costs if your fire escapes.

Prevent the spread of invasive species. Get your firewood near where you burn it. Don't bring firewood from home and don't take it home with you. Learn more at www.firewood.ca.gov

Permit Holder's Signature _____ Email Address _____
 Street Address _____
 City, State, ZIP _____
 Issued By _____ Date Issued _____

THIS PERMIT IS NOT TRANSFERABLE

Campfire Permit Sample

When you sign a Campfire Permit you agree to:

- Know and comply with all current fire restrictions for the area where you plan to use a campfire.
- Clear all flammable materials from the ground for 5 feet in all directions from the edge of the fire. Keep a shovel and water nearby.
- Keep the fire small - Think of the fire in a cube 2 feet x 2 feet x 2 feet.
- Always personally supervised the campfire until it is completely extinguished or ensure that another knowledgeable and responsible adult supervises the fire.
- Always personally make sure the fire is dead out and completely cold before you leave it unsupervised. Extinguish the fire with water and a shovel using the "drown, stir, and feel method."

The permittee also acknowledges they are **legally responsible and may be liable for fire suppression cost if their fire escapes.**

California State Parks



Can I have a campfire at a State Park?

Campfires are usually allowed in provided fire rings at each campsite. Occasionally, during extreme fire conditions, open fires may be banned on short notice. Before arrival, call the park or check the park website at ["Visit a Park"](#) for information about fire bans during peak fire season.

Some State Parks do not allow wood and charcoal fires and collecting any wood, leaves or other material to burn is not allowed. Gas stoves and gas fire pits are allowed but must be monitored at all times.



Campfire Permit V Burn Permits



“Campfire” means a fire which is used for cooking, personal warmth, lighting, ceremonial or aesthetic purposes. This includes fires contained within outdoor fireplaces and enclosed stoves with flues or chimneys, stoves using jellied, liquid, solid, or gaseous fuels, portable barbecue pits and braziers, or space heating devices which are used outside any structure, mobile home, or living accommodation mounted on a motor vehicle. “Campfire” does not include portable lanterns designed to emit light resulting from a combustion process. - Public Resource Code 4103.5.



Campfire Permit

You can help protect the forest from wildfires by knowing and following rules for the safe use of fire. Please obtain a California Campfire Permit if you plan to **build a campfire, use a barbecue, use a lantern or use a stove** outside any developed recreation area (campground or picnic area).

Remember that regulations governing campfires are specific to the area and change with weather conditions and the seasons.

You are responsible to know the current restrictions for the area you are visiting.

How much do they cost?

California Campfire Permits are free.

Where can I obtain a permit?

Any California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) office, Forest Service office, Bureau of Land Management office, or by visiting [Campfire Permit - Ready for Wildfire](#).



How long is the permit good for?

Your campfire permit is valid from the date issued until the end of the calendar year (December 31st).

Where can I use it?

The permit may be used in most National Forests in California and on Bureau of Land Management land. Campfire permits are usually not required in developed campgrounds and picnic areas.

Burn Permits

During certain times of the year and in certain parts of the state, **residential landscape debris burning of dead vegetation, agency sponsored and agricultural burning projects, and broadcast burning** is allowed. However, homeowners and land management stewards should always check with their local fire station or CAL FIRE station, as well as local air quality management agency before burning. Burn permits may be required and during the dry months, CAL FIRE will suspend burning altogether.

Permit Number:

Permit Expiration Date: 4/30/2023



Residential Burn Permit - Burn Pile
 State of California
 Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
 16424 Hwy 670 online

This permit is subject to the terms and conditions of use as indicated, burn natural vegetation in 4-foot diameter piles.

Conditions of Use

- Burn natural vegetation in 4 - 4' foot diameter piles.
- Area with a minimum of 10 feet, or larger if site specific conditions warrant to prevent escape. From the outer edge of pile is monitored free and clear of all flammable material and vegetation.
- Responsible person in attendance with a shovel until the fire is dead out.
- Must have adequate water supply (example: charged water hose long enough to reach all sides of the burn area).
- Permittee must not burn during very hot and dry periods when winds are strong enough that burning would be considered unsafe (example: wind keeps leaves in motion or extends a light flag or cloth).
- This permit is valid only on days which are determined "Permissible Burn Days" by the local Air Pollution Control District, pursuant to its authority under CCR Title 17.5B0300-B0330 and local Air District rules. For more information visit California Air Districts. Call before burning: **(877) 429-2876**
- This permit is **void** during suspension of burning by the Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or their designee.
- This permit does not relieve the permittee from using reasonable and prudent care to prevent damage to the property of others or injury to person as prescribed by law. In the event of an escape of the fire that requires suppression action, the permit holder may be held liable for suppression costs.
- This permit does not relieve the permittee of any legal responsibility for the safe use of fire or allow burning in violation of any State law, county ordinance, local regulations restricting, or regulating the use of fire.
- This permit **does not authorize** incinerator/ barrel burning.

For burning and fire safety information call your local CAL FIRE MMU unit at **(209) 956-9622**.

Permittee		
Name		
Address		
City	State: CA	Zip Code:
Phone	Email:	
Burn Location		
Address		
City	State: CA	Zip Code:
County	Battalion:	
Section 7, 7095, R20E.		
I own or legally control the above-described land. I agree to comply with all fire laws, ordinances, regulations, and with all applicable Air Pollution Control District Rules and Regulations. I further agree to comply with specific terms of this burn permit.		
Permittee's Signature		
Director, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection		
Joe Tyler	Date issued: February 2, 2023	
<p>VIOLATIONS OF ANY BURNING PERMIT TERMS ARE A VIOLATION OF STATE LAW AND RENDERS THE PERMIT NULL AND VOID. PERMIT IS VOID DURING PERIODS WHEN BURNING IS PROHIBITED BY STATE LAW, LOCAL ORDINANCE, OR PROCLAMATION OF PUBLIC OFFICERS. <small>(Public Resources Code 4321, 4421, 4423 and 4425)</small></p> <p>Health & Safety Code 13009 states that persons who lose control of a permitted burn may be held liable for suppression costs.</p>		

[Ready to burn?](#) • [Campfire permits](#) • [Defensible Space](#) • [California Air Districts](#) • [R20E](#) • [Current Burn Status](#) • [Feedback Survey](#)

Sample of Residential Burn Permit

Type of burn permit applications:

- **Residential Burning** is burning outdoors at a single or two-family dwelling unit or residence.
- **Broadcast Burning** is a controlled application of fire to the land, often called a controlled burn or prescribed fire.
- **Agency/Ag Burning** consists of General Projects, where broadcast burning is performed by a state agency or the agricultural industry, or Preventive Projects that could cause a fire.

CAL FIRE Burn Permits are only for within the State Responsibility Area (SRA), or where CAL FIRE has jurisdictional authority.

Residential burn permits are valid on a yearly cycle, May 1st – April 30th. CAL FIRE will send you an email reminding you to request your new burn permit when it is time to re-apply. If you do not receive the email, please re-apply on or after May 1st.

For information and permits required outside the SRA / CAL FIRE jurisdiction, contact your local City/County fire authority. If the status in your county is marked as "Burning Allowed", you still must confirm that it is a permissive burn day with your local air quality management agency



Safe Alternatives

Even when campfires are allowed, current conditions like high winds, may cause a traditional campfire to spread out of control. Consider using a safer alternative.

Propane fire pits

While using a propane fire pit instead of a traditional campfire may be an adjustment, you won't miss the ash or smoke. And guess what? You can still roast marshmallows.



Propane stoves

Another type of product you can consider is a propane-powered stove. This is an ideal solution if your main goal is to grill food in your backyard or at your campsite.



Artificial Fire

When conditions are extreme, or if any type of open flames are banned it may not be possible to use propane. The propane options above are ideal if you want real warmth at your campsite or in your backyard. But if you only want something with the appearance of a campfire, there are a few alternatives on the market.

Artificial Fire

Activities for Kids

If the kids are not able to roast marshmallows and are looking for something fun to do, you can get creative.

Glow Party

You can stock up on glow-in-the-dark face paint, tattoos, bubbles, decorations and glow sticks. A glow scavenger hunt is another good option.



GlowStick Dance Party



Flashlight Tag

Flashlight Tag

Flashlight tag can be fun for kids and adults alike.

Solar Lights

There is a wide range of solar lights available on the market. Some will even charge your cell phone.



Solar Light Example



Stargazing

Looking up the stars is fun, educational, and it's free! Star maps can be downloaded for free onto a smart device.



Campfire Tips

OPEN CAMPFIRE SAFETY RULES
Campfire Safety to Prevent Wildfire

LEARN HOW TO BUILD AN OPEN CAMPFIRE, MAINTAIN IT DURING THE BURN TIME AND HOW TO EXTINGUISH AN OPEN CAMPFIRE WHEN FINISHED:

BUILD
TO BUILD AN OPEN CAMPFIRE:

- SELECT A LEVEL, OPEN LOCATION AWAY FROM READY FUELS SUCH AS LOGS, BRUSH OR DECAYING LEAVES AND NEEDLES.
- CLEAR AN AREA AT LEAST 5 FEET FROM FIRE'S EDGE (LOCAL REGULATIONS MAY VARY).
- SCRAPE AWAY GRASS, LEAVES OR NEEDLES DOWN TO THE MINERAL SOIL.

1 CUT WOOD IN SHORT LENGTHS, PILE WITHIN CLEARED AREA AND LIGHT THE FIRE.

SCOOP A DEPRESSION IN THE CENTER OF THE CLEARED AREA IN WHICH TO BUILD THE FIRE AND PUT A RING OF ROCKS AROUND IT.

THE FIRE SHOULD BE BUILT NO LARGER THAN NECESSARY FOR WARMING OR PERSONAL USE ONLY.

YOUR FIRE MUST NEVER BE LEFT UNATTENDED AND THE FIRE MUST BE EXTINGUISHED COMPLETELY BEFORE LEAVING.

BURN
THE FIRE IS BURNING:

- KEEP A SHOVEL AND BUCKET OF WATER NEARBY AT ALL TIMES.
- WHILE THE FIRE IS BURNING, BE SURE THERE IS A RESPONSIBLE PERSON IN ATTENDANCE OF THE FIRE AT ALL TIMES.
- NEVER LEAVE CHILDREN AROUND A FIRE UNATTENDED.

OUT
COMPLETELY EXTINGUISH AN OPEN CAMPFIRE:

- USE THE "DROWN, STIR AND FEEL" METHOD: DROWN THE FIRE WITH WATER, THEN STIR AND REPEAT THE FIRE WITH YOUR SHOVEL TO WET ANY REMAINING SMOKERS AND ASH.
- FEEL THE AREA WITH THE BACK OF YOUR HAND TO ENSURE NOTHING IS STILL SMOLDERING.
- TURN MOIST AND COALS OVER AND WET ALL SIDES.
- MOVE SOME COYRINTED THE FIRE SITE AND MIX THOROUGHLY TO FULLY SMOOTHER IT.

ONE LESS SPARK
ONE LESS WILDFIRE

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A PRINT-READY CAMPFIRE PERMIT VISIT:
PREVENTWILDFIRE.ORG
[#PREVENTWILDFIRE](https://twitter.com/PreventWildfire) [#ONELESSSPARK](https://twitter.com/OneLessSpark)

BRINGED TO YOU BY THE CALIFORNIA WILDLAND FIRE COORDINATORS GROUP (CWCG)

Before You Get Started

Permits are required to have campfire or portable gas stoves on public lands. Check to ensure there aren't any local fire restrictions in the area. During periods of high fire danger, campfires may be restricted. Also, keep a shovel and bucket of water nearby at all times.

*Prevent the spread of invasive species.

Get your firewood where you burn it.

Don't bring firewood from home and don't take it home with you.

Camping Fire Safety—How to Build an Open Campfire

Select a level, open location away from heavy fuels such as logs, brush or decaying leaves and needles. Clear an area at least 10 feet in diameter (local regulations may vary). Scrape away grass, leaves or needles down to the mineral soil. Scoop a depression in the center of the cleared area in which to build the fire and put a ring of rocks around it. Cut wood in short lengths, pile within cleared area and light the fire. The fire should be

built no larger than necessary. Your fire must never be left unattended and the fire must be extinguished completely before leaving.

While the Fire is Burning/Open Fire Safety

Always keep a shovel and bucket of water nearby at all times. While the fire is burning, be sure there is a responsible person in attendance of the fire at all times. Never leave children around a fire unattended.

How to Completely Extinguish an Open Campfire

Use the “drown, stir and feel” method: drown the fire with water, then stir around the fire area with your shovel to wet any remaining embers and ash. Be sure to turn wood and coals over and wet all sides. Move some dirt onto the fire site and mix thoroughly to fully smother it. And finally, feel the area with the back of your hand to ensure nothing is still smoldering.

EXTINGUISHING YOUR FIRE





For More Information, please visit:

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/fire-safety-outreach>

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/dspace>

<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/>

<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/permits/campfire-permit/>

<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/>

osfm.fire.ca.gov/wildfire-public-education/

Questions?



Questions?

Speaker Introduction

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Heather McCulley

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Defensible Space Program
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Resources can be found at:

<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prevent-wildfire/campfire-safety/>



Join us for our Next Webinar!



- ▶ Webinars held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 11:30 AM via Zoom!
- ▶ Join us for our next webinar on July 24th at 11:30 AM.
 - ▶ Defensible Space - Keeping it Clean in the Heat

