



NEWS RELEASE

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FIRE CHIEF

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Riverside County Burn Permit Suspension Lifted

Perris – Effective Monday, December 5, 2016 at 8:00 a.m., the burn permit suspension in Riverside County will be lifted. CAL FIRE Riverside Unit Chief, John R. Hawkins 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. This can be verified by contacting your local Air Quality Management District.

CAL FIRE burn permits are required for tumbleweed and commercial agricultural burning (along with an AQMD permit). While cooler temperatures have helped to diminish the threat of wildfire, we are still in our fifth year of drought. Property owners and residents are asked to use caution while conducting debris or agriculture burns, 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.

Residents wishing to burn MUST verify it is a permissive burn day prior to burning by contacting the Air Quality Management District at www.aqmd.gov, or contacting CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department at 951-940-6949.

Pile Burning Requirements

- **Only tumbleweeds 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.

“Southern California is no stranger to increased fire danger risks from damaging Santa Ana winds”, said CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Chief, John R. Hawkins. “Residents must remain fire-ready even during winter months and take advantage of cooler days to harden your home against wildfire. Please visit the www.readyforwildfire.org website for step-by-step instructions to keep your family and home safe”.

Day and overnight campers should check with their area State and County Parks to verify if permit requirements are in place or have been lifted to have a campfire.

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

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