



Riverside County Fire Department in cooperation with CAL FIRE

NEWS RELEASE

JOHN R. HAWKINS
FIRE CHIEF

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Burning Restrictions Rescinded, Hazardous Fire Areas Re-Open

Effective Monday, November 21, 2011 at 8:00 a.m., CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Chief John R. Hawkins has rescinded the burning suspension in Riverside County. Burning is now allowed within normal Department and AQMD regulations. More information on County Ordinance 787.6 regarding open burning can be found on the www.rvcfire.org website.

In addition, restricted entry into public areas designated “Hazardous Fire Closure Areas” in Riverside County has also been rescinded. These areas include:

- Avery Canyon (Gibbel Road, east of State Street in Hemet)
- North Mountain and Indian Canyon (San Jacinto area)
- Whitewater Canyon (Cabazon, north of Palm Springs)
- Nuevo/Lakeview (east of Menifee Road and San Jacinto Avenue)
- Reinhardt Canyon (North of Highway 74 and California Avenue in Hemet)
- Ramona Bowl and Bautista Canyon (southeast Hemet)

Future closures may be re-implemented based upon weather conditions, fuel moisture and increased wildland fire threat.

Also on November 21st, 2011, fixed-wing aircraft at Ryan Air Attack Base will be off-contract; however, one water-dropping helicopter and one bulldozer will be covered 24/7. CAL FIRE State station and aircraft staffing levels are typically augmented each summer. Careful and constant evaluation of predicted weather, fuel moisture and potential fire conditions dictates the annual transition from summer to winter preparedness staffing.

Due to recent rains and lower temperatures, Chief Hawkins wishes to remind residents and visitors that we live in an area prone to wildland fires and that fires can still occur as the result of careless acts. Homeowners should always maintain defensible space and always be prepared in the event of an approaching wildland fire, even during winter months.

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