
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



Santa Clara Unit

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“*CAL FIRE* Santa Clara Unit Suspends Burn Permits”

Morgan Hill - On Monday June 13, 2011 with the “Declaration of Fire Season” the Santa Clara Unit of **CAL FIRE** will be suspending all permits for open burning within the State Responsibility areas (SRA) and Local Responsibility areas (LRA) under contract to **CAL FIRE**. This applies to the counties of Santa Clara, Contra Costa, Alameda and areas west of I-5 in Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties.

This Suspension is based upon the changing weather patterns, fuel conditions and increasing fire activity within the Bay area, and throughout the state of California.

Starting on Monday June 13th, 2011 the Santa Clara Unit will be staffing 12 engines within the Unit to meet these changing weather and fire conditions.

Santa Clara Unit Chief Steve Woodill said, “I would like to remind everyone that this year’s increase of rainfall and added vegetation growth, in parts of the bay area counties creates an extra hazard, so please use caution in the wild land areas.

The public has a responsibility under California law, to maintain a defensible space around all buildings in the wildland and wildland areas within the urban interfaces.

Therefore, **CAL FIRE** offers the following “**5**” **safety recommendations**:

- Be extra careful with fire. Of the 6,000+ wildfires that **CAL FIRE** responds to every year, more than 90% are caused by people. Equipment use is the most common cause.
- Use weed eaters, chain saws, etc. only during the cool, moist times of day. Be careful not to send sparks into dry grass.
- Remember lawn mowers are only for lawns. They can actually cause fires if used on dry grass.

- Be prepared for the worst. Have a plan for gathering family members, pets and valuables in case an approaching wildfire requires evacuation.
- Create a defensible space around all structures. See the **CAL FIRE** website “Fire Safety Education” section at www.fire.ca.gov or www.wildfire.org for specific requirements and information

The Santa Clara Unit serves: Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties.

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