NEWS RELEASE

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FIRE CHIEF

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CAL FIRE SUSPENDS BURN PERMITS AND OTHER USES OF OPEN FIRE IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Perris, CA - Due to the extreme menace of destruction by fire to life, improved property, or natural resources caused by critical fire weather and acute dryness of vegetation; and/or fire suppression forces being heavily committed to control fire; and under authority vested in me by the Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as per section 4423.1 of the Public Resources Code, I hereby suspend, except within the incorporated cities, the privileges of burning by permit and other uses of open fire in the geographic area described as: **ALL STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREA LANDS WITHIN THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**

In addition to suspension of open burning, the following restrictions also are hereby applied and will be in effect Monday, May 14, 2018 and until further notice:

1. Use of campfires is restricted to within established campfire facilities located in established campgrounds open to the public.
2. Agricultural burning in the **Palo Verde Valley** and **Coachella Valley** is authorized as required for agricultural rehabilitation.
3. Cooking fires with a valid permit are permissive when no alternate means of cooking is available and requires an on-site inspection prior to the issuance of a permit.
4. Warming fires are permissive and require an on-site inspection prior to the issuance of a permit when weather conditions exist to justify the request.

In accordance with section 4423.2 of the Public Resources Code, state rangers or other authorized agents of the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection may issue restricted temporary burning permits whenever it can be shown that burning or use of open fire is essential for reasons of public health, safety, or welfare. This order shall become effective Monday, May 14, 2018 and remain in effect until I formally terminate this proclamation.

"Fire defense is self defense. Get ready - we are. CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department encourages residents to get ready for wildfires. Please comply with the implemented open burning suspension. They are put in place for you, the public and our firefighters safety." - *Daniel R. Talbot, CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Chief*

Since January 1, 2018 CAL FIRE and firefighters across the state have already responded to over 1,000 wildfires. While outdoor burning of landscape debris by homeowners is no longer allowed, CAL FIRE is asking residents to ensure that they are prepared for wildfires by maintaining a minimum of 100 feet of Defensible Space around every home and building on their property.

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Here are some tips to help prepare homes and property:

- Clear all dead and or dying vegetation 100 feet from around all structures.
- Landscape with fire resistant/drought tolerant plants.
- Find alternative ways to dispose of all landscape debris; such as chipping or hauling it to a biomass energy or green waste facility.

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. A campfire permit can be obtained at local fire stations or online at www.preventwildfireca.org.

For additional information on how to create Defensible Space, as well as tips to prevent wildfires, visit www.readyforwildfire.org or download the CAL FIRE Ready for Wildfire App here.

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