

NEWS RELEASE

**California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Amador-El Dorado-Sacramento Unit**

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

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Prairie City Vegetation Management Prescribed Fire Project

Camino - The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) in cooperation with California State Parks Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA), will be conducting a prescribed fire project during the week of May 28th - May 31st, weather permitting. Approximately 180 acres of grasslands will be treated south of the intersection of White Rock Road and Prairie City Road. Smoke may be visible in the daytime hours in this area.

There are two key objectives of the burn project. The first objective will be to provide a live fire training opportunity for local firefighters. Live Fire training scenarios provide an opportunity to train firefighters in suppression techniques as well as working with other resources. A short window of time exists to provide this type of training in the late spring and early summer when the grass fuels are cured enough to burn, seasonal firefighters are on staff and available and equipment is available for training instead of committed to an incident. This project will allow CAL FIRE and State Parks resources to function together in a controlled live fire setting to better prepare for those wild land incidents that are sure to come.

A secondary objective will be the implementation of Prairie City SVRA's plan for managing invasive weeds on the Prairie City SVRA property using properly timed burning guided by information from the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) and UC Davis as well as Prairie City SVRA's Natural Resource staff.

Firefighters from the Amador El Dorado Unit of CAL FIRE, Sacramento Metro Fire Department, Folsom City Fire Department as well as California State Park employees will work and train together to complete the burn project. By working together in a training environment, firefighters will develop needed skills and abilities and form cooperative relationships which will ultimately provide a more effective and efficient response to future emergencies.

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