

# CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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**RELEASE**  
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## **Fire Season Begins in South State**

### **CDF Declares Fire Season in San Diego, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties**

**Sacramento-** San Diego, San Bernardino and Riverside units of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) will go on fire season status as of Monday May 3, 2004. The remainder of the Southern Region is expected to declare fire season by May 17 if the hot and dry weather conditions remain. The Northern Region is also expected to declare fire season by mid-May.

“Fire Season” for CDF is simply a state of readiness. Various management decisions are made by the unit chiefs in response to local conditions. They will hire seasonal firefighters, staff all facilities 24 hours per day, increase dispatch levels and often suspend burning permits.

This declaration is approximately 3 weeks earlier than last year when CDF declared fire season on May 26, 2003. “It’s been hot and dry early this year and the weather forecasters expect it to continue. We are gearing up for what could be a long, difficult fire season,” said Jim Wright, Chief of Fire Protection.

The declaration of fire season also prompts CDF to reach out to the public with the annual fire safety message. This year’s theme is “It’s a Clear Choice.” Homeowners are reminded that now is the time to clear away all dry grass, weeds and brush a minimum of 30’ to 100’ (check with local ordinances) around every structure on their property. Trim tree branches a minimum of 10’ away from the roof and remove all flammables from the roof such as twigs, leaves and pine needles. For more fire safety information see the CDF website at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)

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