

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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All CDF Units on Fire Season

Public Advised of High Fire Danger

Sacramento – As of Monday June 7, 2004 all 21 units of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) will be on fire season status. Seasonal firefighters are hired, dispatch levels are increased and fire response facilities are operating around the clock. Fire season also means that certain restriction may apply to the public. Burn permits and campfire permits may be suspended in certain locations. Due to the high fire danger, anyone considering burning debris or lighting a campfire should check with local fire authorities first.

During fire season, the threat of wildfire is increased. Therefore, CDF firefighters offer the following safety recommendations:

- Be extra careful with fire. Of the 6,000+ wildfires that CDF 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 CDF website "Fire Safety Education" section at www.fire.ca.gov for specific requirements.

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