



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Fire Preparedness Exercise 2015		
PROJECT LOCATION	Tonner Canyon, northeast of Brea, CA and west of Chino Hills, CA, Sections 26 & 27, T2S, R9W, SBBM	COUNTY	San Bernardino & Los Angeles Counties
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Fire Preparedness Exercise (FPE) requires CAL FIRE San Bernardino Unit personnel to demonstrate physical fitness and the safe and effective use of fire suppression tactics in preparation for 2015 peak staffing level. The FPE will be located on land owned by the City of Industry. The total project area is approximately 50 acres; however, not all this area will be impacted by project activities. Approximately 10 acres will receive treatment for this training, 40 acres will remain undisturbed. The FPE will consist of 20 handlines (approximately 6 feet wide) constructed by CAL FIRE Type I hand crews on brush covered hillsides. The crews will utilize chainsaws to cut shrubs, and hand tools to remove surface vegetation exposing bare mineral soil (approximately 2 feet wide). No trees will be cut during these exercises. No burning of the slash will occur. There are no watercourses within the project area. Fire crews will hike on an existing trail prior to beginning the handline construction. Engine crews may conduct progressive hose lays which will not involve the cutting of vegetation and will be done on existing roads and disturbed areas. Fire apparatus shall be operated from existing roads and road shoulders to pump water for the progressive hose lay. No heavy equipment will be operated off existing road surfaces or disturbed road shoulders.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under the Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land) Categorical Exemption to CEQA. Class 4 is described as a "minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes." This project as proposed constructs handlines and does not remove healthy, mature, or scenic trees. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact will occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, populations and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE's BDU Headquarters in San Bernardino.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date 3/24/15
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection