

# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

## California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



### CAL FIRE / Butte County Fire



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### **CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Prepares for the Threat of Wildfires**

**Butte County** – CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire is reminding everyone that we are moving into a period of increased risk of wildfires. Butte County experienced a relatively dry winter, with periods of heavy precipitation this spring resulting in a healthy grass crop. Recent trends show temperatures are on the increase, and with the advent of north winds, humidity's will be decreasing, drying out the lighter fuels such as grass and increasing the risk of wildfires. Although CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire is prepared at anytime for emergencies, it is preparing for the increased threat and workload driven from wildfires this summer by hiring additional firefighters and preparing to staff additional fire engines and aircraft to meet the increased fire threat.

CAL FIRE officials continue to stress the importance of personal responsibility in preparing for wildfires. Modifying and removing vegetation surrounding homes, or creating an area of *defensible space*, is the primary method to increase survivability from an oncoming wildfire. "The preparation done by homeowners, to remove flammable vegetation and create a defensible space around their homes is extremely important and significantly increases the odds that a structure will survive an encounter with a wildfire," stated Fire Prevention Bureau Chief Todd Price. "A wildfire" Price continued, "Can move rapidly through the environment, so for the best chance of success, this work needs to be completed before the fire danger is at the critical stage."

Here are a few tips to create a defensible space and help make homes fire safe:

- Remove all flammable vegetation 30 feet from all structures.
- At 30 to 100 feet from the structure, separate trees and shrubs from each other.
- Clear all needles, leaves, and debris from roofs, eaves and rain gutters.
- Trim branches six feet from the ground, and away from any structures.
- Use string trimmers and other spark arrestor equipped power equipment before 10 A.M.

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- Lawn-mowers should **never be used** in dry flammable vegetation.
- Landscape with fire resistant plants.

Dooryard burning will continue to be allowed in the unincorporated areas of Butte County with a residential burn permit until a burn ban is imposed on July 1, 2012. Please visit the Butte County Air Quality Management District (BCAQMD) at [bcaqmd.org](http://bcaqmd.org) or by phone at 530-332-9407 or toll free at 1-855-332-9407 for further information regarding open burning in Butte County.

For more information and helpful tips on Defensible Space visit the CAL FIRE Web site at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov).

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