

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit

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RELEASE
DATE: June 29, 2009

Burn Permits Suspended

San Andreas – The Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit (TCU) of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) will suspend all burning permits within State Responsibility Areas of Tuolumne County, Calaveras County, Eastern Stanislaus County and Eastern San Joaquin County as of 8AM, Wednesday, July 1, 2009. The official proclamation is attached.

This declaration rescinds all previously approved Dooryard Burn Permits (LE-62a) and large-scale Project Burn Permits (LE-5). Property owners wishing to burn debris on their property are now prohibited from doing so unless they can prove that their project burn must be completed for health or safety reasons. Any planned burning site must be inspected and approved before a permit may be reissued. Permits will again become valid after the burn suspension has been lifted, this could be as late as October or November 2009.

Camp fires will be allowed in designated campgrounds with permission of the jurisdictional authority. Anyone with questions about this declaration may contact their nearest CAL FIRE facility.

CAL FIRE TCU Unit Chief Mike Noonan explained, "Due to high temperatures and low humidity forest fuels are quickly approaching a critical point. Experience has shown that suspending debris burns is an effective way of preventing wildfire escapes, especially as California enters a period of hotter and drier weather. Although all fires cannot be prevented through a burning suspension, their numbers can be significantly reduced." Chief Noonan would like to thank the residents who have been burning in a responsible manner and reminds all of us that it is each individual's responsibility to use fire safely, and to prevent fires that destroy lives, homes, vehicles, and the wildland. Be Fire Safe!



California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection CAL FIRE

PROCLAMATION SUSPENDING BURNING PERMITS

On all State Responsibility Areas within the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit

Due to the menace of wildfires and their potential to destroy life and property, and utilizing the authority vested in me by Section 4423.1 of the Public Resources Code, I hereby proclaim that all **BURNING PERMITS** within State Responsibility Areas in the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit will be **SUSPENDED** beginning 8AM, Wednesday, July 1, 2009. Past fire history combined with dry vegetation, predicted fire weather and other factors, have prompted me to proclaim the following types of burning restrictions and exceptions:

RESTRICTIONS:

- **All RESIDENTIAL “DOORYARD” (FORM LE-62) BURNING PERMITS** within State Responsibility Areas and Local Responsibility Areas under contract to CAL FIRE in the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit will be **SUSPENDED** beginning 8AM July 1, 2009. Previously issued “Dooryard” permits will no longer be valid until the proclamation is rescinded.
- All Project Burn Permits (LE-5’s) must be inspected and approved before a permit can be reissued.

EXCEPTIONS:

- Campfires within organized campgrounds or on private property are allowed if the purpose of the campfire is for cooking or providing warmth and is maintained in such a manner as to prevent the campfire from spreading to the wildland vegetation.
- Project Burn Permits (LE-5’s) may be issued by the Department whenever it can be shown that burning or open flame is essential for reasons of agriculture emergencies, public health, safety and welfare.;

This suspension will continue in place until formally cancelled by me.

This PROCLAMATION is issued at San Andreas, California, this 1st day of July, 2009.

MICHAEL T. NOONAN
Unit Chief

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