

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



Santa Clara Unit

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CAL FIRE urges caution this Labor Day Weekend Public asked to take steps to prevent new fires and stay safe

Morgan Hill – As Labor Day weekend approaches, millions of people will visit outdoor recreation areas throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and California. In anticipation of the increased outdoor activities, CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit fire officials are urging everyone to exercise extreme caution and be safe this holiday weekend.

Wildfires continue to burn throughout the state of California and much of the state remains at high risk for wildfires. Over 875,000 acres have burned in California since 1 January 2018. The potential for additional large, destructive fires only increases as we approach fall. Residents and visitors to the recreational areas of the San Francisco Bay Area and California need to be extremely cautious and avoid starting any new fires while enjoying the last long weekend of summer.

As a reminder, the burn ban that the CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit issued on August 8, 2018 is still in effect. This ban includes all burning in the State Responsibility Areas within Santa Clara, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties and the Western portions of Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties. However, private property and incorporated cities are excluded from the burn ban.

These restrictions continue to prohibit the use of open fires, campfires and charcoal fires in the State Responsibility Area and will remain in effect until cancelled. Smoking is prohibited, except within an enclosed vehicle, building, or a designated Campfire Use Site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.

Camping:

- Obtain a campfire permit (www.PreventWildfireCA.org)
- Check for local fire restrictions
- Clear away grass, leaves and other debris within a 10-foot perimeter of any campfire
- Have a responsible person in attendance at all times
- Ensure all campfires are completely extinguished before leaving
- When barbequing, never leave the grill unattended

Fire is not the only danger that can occur in the outdoors, as water drownings also increase dramatically during this holiday weekend. Rivers and lakes run fast and cold, making them very dangerous. Following a few simple steps could save someone's life.

In the Water:

- Always wear a life jacket!
- Children should always be supervised by a responsible adult
- Never swim alone

- Be cautious of rivers and waterways with rapid currents
- Drinking and swimming can be just as dangerous as drinking and driving

For more ways to be safe during the Labor Day Weekend visit the CAL FIRE website at www.fire.ca.gov.

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