
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



San Benito-Monterey Unit

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CAL FIRE San Benito-Monterey Unit Transitions Out of Peak Fire Season

Monterey, CA – Recent rains and cooler temperatures across the region have lowered the threat of wildfires, allowing CAL FIRE’s San Benito-Monterey Unit to transition out of peak fire season effective Monday, January 15, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. in San Benito and Monterey Counties.

“2017 was a busy year for CAL FIRE,” says Fire Chief Brennan Blue. “CAL FIRE will continue to protect lives, property, and the environment year-round. Please do your part by continuing to create and maintain at least 100 feet of defensible space around your home and structures. This year, California saw some of the most destructive fires in state history during what is traditionally the fall and winter seasons. These late-season fires once again demonstrated the need for people to be prepared to evacuate quickly and safely. Please educate yourself and your family by learning about the Ready, Set, Go! program at www.ReadyForWildfire.org.”

CAL FIRE will continue to maintain staffing to meet any potential threat, as well as maintaining the ability to strategically move resources to areas that remain at a higher threat level. CAL FIRE will also continue to monitor weather conditions closely and still has the ability to increase staffing should weather conditions change or if there is a need to support wildfires or other emergencies in other areas of the State.

The 2017 fire season has been an extremely active year, even more so than in 2016. Statewide, CAL FIRE and firefighters from many local agencies responded to over 6,000 wildfires within the State Responsibility Area that burned nearly 505,000 acres. In the San Benito-Monterey Unit, CAL FIRE responded to 193 wildfires that charred 2,566 acres.

During the cooler winter months, CAL FIRE will continue to actively focus efforts on fire prevention and fuels treatment activities as guided by the State’s [Strategic Fire Plan](#) and localized Unit fire plans. These will be done through public education, prescribed burns and various types of fuel reduction. These activities are aimed at reducing the impacts of large, damaging wildfires and improving overall forest health.

Residents are urged to still take precautions outdoors in order to prevent sparking a wildfire. A leading cause of wildfires this time of year is from escaped landscape debris burning. CAL FIRE permits for burning are required; these must be issued by a CAL FIRE facility, regardless of any online permitting from Monterey Bay Air Resources District. Residential and agricultural burning, under permit from CAL FIRE, will be allowed from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. In San Benito and Monterey Counties, burn permits may be obtained at the following CAL FIRE stations:

- Aromas Fire Station
- Bradley Fire Station
- Carmel Hill Fire Station
- Gonzales Fire Station
- King City Fire Station
- Parkfield Fire Station
- Soledad Fire Station

Before you burn, ensure it is a permissive burn day by contacting the [Monterey Bay Air Resources District](#) (mbard.org or 831-647-9411) and then make sure you have any and all required burn permits. During burning, make sure that piles of landscape debris are no larger than four feet in diameter, provide a 10-ft. clearance down to bare mineral soil around the burn pile, and ensure that a responsible adult is in attendance at all times with a water source and a shovel.

For more ways to burn safely visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org.

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MEDIA ONLY For further information on CAL FIRE's response to incidents in San Benito and Monterey Counties, please contact the San Benito-Monterey Unit Public Information Officer at (831) 647-6257 or BEU.PIO@fire.ca.gov.