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CAL FIRE/RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIRE CHIEF SUSPENDS OPEN BURNING IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Release Date: April 29, 2026

Perris, CA – Warming temperatures and strong winds are rapidly drying out the annual grasses and vegetation throughout Riverside County, which creates a dense layer of dry fuel, significantly increasing the risk of wildfires.

Due to these dangerous conditions, CAL FIRE is suspending all burn permits for outdoor residential burning within the State Responsibility Area (SRA) of Riverside County. This suspension is a necessary step to help prevent wildfires and protect lives, property, and natural resources.

This suspension takes effect Friday, May 1, 2026, and bans all residential outdoor burning of landscape debris such as branches and leaves. Agricultural burning in the Palo Verde Valley and Coachella Valley is authorized as required for agricultural rehabilitation.

“As rising temperatures and increasingly dry vegetation heighten the risk of wildfires, I urge residents to prepare their homes by clearing defensible space and removing excess brush to help protect their properties and reduce community-wide fire danger. The burn suspension will remain in place until conditions improve and it is safe to resume open burning,” said Fire Chief Robert Fish.

While outdoor burning of landscape debris by homeowners is no longer allowed, CAL FIRE is asking residents to take that extra time to ensure that they are prepared for wildfires by maintaining a minimum of 100 feet of Defensible Space around every home and building on their property and being prepared to evacuate if the time comes.

Here are some tips to help prepare homes and property:

- Remember “Zone Zero”, the ember-resistant zone: Keep all combustible materials out of the five-foot zone immediately surrounding your home

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- Clear all dead or dying vegetation 100 feet from around all structures
- Landscape with fire resistant plants and non-flammable ground cover
- Find alternative ways to dispose of landscape debris like chipping or hauling it to a biomass energy or green waste facility

The department may issue restricted temporary burning permits if there is an essential reason due to public health and safety. Agriculture, land management, fire training, and other industrial-type burning may proceed if a CAL FIRE official inspects the burn site and issues a special permit.

The suspension of burn permits for residential landscape debris does not apply to campfires within organized campgrounds or on private property. Campfires may be permitted if the campfire is maintained in such a manner as to prevent its spread to the wildland. A campfire permit can be obtained at local fire stations or online at PreventWildfireCA.org.

For additional information on how to create Defensible Space, on how to be prepared for wildfires, as well as tips to prevent wildfires, visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org.

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