



Riverside County Fire Department in Cooperation with CAL FIRE

NEWS RELEASE



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Bill Weiser, Fire Chief



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RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIRE CHIEF SUSPENDS OPEN BURNING IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY

PERRIS, CA – Following a wet and rainy winter, the rising temperatures and winds are rapidly drying out the annual grass crop. The escalating threat of wildfires due to the substantial accumulation of dry grass and intensified heat and dry conditions in the area has led CAL FIRE to suspend all outdoor residential burning permits within Riverside County's State Responsibility Area. This suspension comes into effect on Saturday, June 1, 2024, prohibiting all outdoor burning of landscape debris such as branches and leaves. However, agricultural burning in the Palo Verde Valley and Coachella Valley will remain permissible as necessary for agricultural restoration efforts.

"As we transition into the summer months, with rising temperatures and the lush vegetation following ample winter precipitation, it's imperative for residents to ready their properties, clear any excess growth, and adhere to these restrictions until conditions permit safe outdoor burning to resume," emphasized Riverside County Fire Chief, Bill Weiser.

While outdoor burning of landscape debris by residents is no longer allowed, we are 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, and being prepared to evacuate if the time comes.

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 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 online at www.PreventWildfireCA.org.

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

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