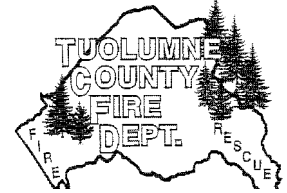

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit Tuolumne County Fire



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FIRE SEASON ENDING FOR CDF AND THE USFS STANISLAUS N.F. OPEN BURN HOURS

Effective 8:00 a.m. Monday, November 20, 2006, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and the Stanislaus National Forest (USFS) will close fire season and lift the restriction of burn hours on private lands within the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit (TCU). This includes the counties of Calaveras, Tuolumne, and those eastern portions of San Joaquin and Stanislaus that are within the State Responsibility Area.

During fire season 2006, 345 wild land fires burned 3618 acres in the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit of CDF which includes the counties of Tuolumne, Calaveras, eastern Stanislaus and eastern San Joaquin. 148 structure fires burned and 57 other incidents involved some type of mobile equipment. The total dollar damage of all fire incidents was \$5,316,400.00. The Stanislaus National Forest experienced 61 wild land fires and 2 structure fires for a total of 224 ½ acres. Total suppression costs for the Stanislaus National Forest for 2006 were \$1,402,500.00.

Burning will be permitted 24 hours a day, but only on "Permissive Burn Days" as established by the Air Pollution Control District in each county. Prior to doing any burning, check the burn day status by calling the local APCD: Calaveras County, (209) 754-6600; Tuolumne County, (209) 533-5598; San Joaquin County, 1-800-281-7003; Stanislaus County, 1-800-349-9401.

CDF burn permits will not be required until May 1, 2007; however, burning on residential property over 2 acres in size requires a permit from the Air Pollution Control District with jurisdiction over that area. These permits document the continued need for outdoor burning in the foothill counties. Burning hazardous vegetation to reduce the fire danger on private property is often the only practical and affordable means of disposal of that material.

Documenting the amount burned enables the APCD to advocate postponing a complete ban on outdoor burning in foothill and mountain communities.

Never burn during high winds. Limit burn piles to four feet in diameter. Remove all flammable material and vegetation from the area within 10 feet of the outer edge of the pile. A responsible person must be in attendance with a shovel and water until the fire is completely out.

Burn **only** clean, dry vegetative material. Do not burn household or commercial trash, tires, plastic or other garbage. Avoid burning piles of pine needles, which smolder and often spread dense smoke over entire neighborhoods. Leave pine needles on the ground for erosion control over the winter, or burn them with other dry vegetation.

Residents and property owners are reminded that as of June 1, 2007, a 30' Defensible Space Zone and an ***additional*** 70' Reduced Fuel Zone will be required around all structures (or two the property line, whichever is nearest). Proper clearance of the extra 70 feet dramatically increases the chance of a home surviving a wildfire. It also provides for firefighter safety when protecting homes during a firestorm. In general, dry leaves and pine needles do not have to be removed from the Reduced Fuel Zone, but trees and brush must be thinned and pruned. Detailed information about the new requirements can be obtained from your local CDF station, by an internet search of the title "General Guidelines for Creating Defensible Space," or at www.bof.fire.ca.gov/pdfs/Copyof4291finalguidelines9_29_06.pdf .

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