
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



Santa Clara Unit

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CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit Transitions Out of Peak Fire Season

Morgan Hill – The recent rain has allowed CAL FIRE’s Santa Clara Unit to transition out of peak fire season effective Monday, November 14, 2016 at 8:00 am in the following counties, Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa and the western portion of Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties.

As the fifth year of drought conditions continue to have a hold on California, CAL FIRE and the Santa Clara Unit will continue to maintain staffing to meet the current threat. 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.

CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit Chief Derek Witmer reminds us all that the transition out of Peak Fire Season does not lessen our responsibility to continue to be fire safe. Now is a great time to service your home heating system, clean your chimney, stove pipes and to test your batteries in your smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detector and get an early start to creating and maintaining a defensible space around your home before next years “Peak Wildfire Season”.

The 2016 fire season has been an extremely active year, even more so than in 2015. Statewide, CAL FIRE and firefighters from many local agencies battled over 5,585 wildfires within the State Responsibility Area that burned nearly 148,000 acres. This is over 1,170 more wildfires this year than normal. In the Santa Clara Unit, CAL FIRE responded to 136 wildfires that charred 6,053 acres.

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. Before you burn; ensure it is a permissive burn day by contacting the Bay Area Air Quality Management District at 1-415-749-5000 or www.baaqmd.org. In San Joaquin or Stanislaus county please contact the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District at 1-800-766-4463 <http://www.valleyair.org> 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 prevent sparking a wildfire visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org.

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