



CAL FIRE in cooperation with San Diego County Fire

# NEWS RELEASE

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FIRE CHIEF

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## **CAL FIRE to Suspend Burn Permits in San Diego and Imperial Counties**

**El Cajon** – As the state and region head towards summer and a return of critical burn conditions, CAL FIRE San Diego is suspending all burn permits for outdoor residential burning within the State Responsibility Area of San Diego and Imperial Counties. This suspension takes effect on May 24, 2021 and bans all residential outdoor burning of landscape debris such as branches and leaves.

Since January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, CAL FIRE and firefighters across the state have responded to over 2,436 wildfires, far outpacing the 1,554 fires over the same time period last year. “There have already been thousands of opportunities for wildfire to impact Californians across the state. The threat to our communities is real, and fire potential will continue to increase until the region receives significant rain later in the year.” said CAL FIRE/San Diego County Fire Chief Tony Mecham.

While outdoor burning of landscape debris by homeowners is no longer allowed, CAL FIRE is asking residents 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.

Here are some tips to help prepare homes and property:

- Clear all dead and/or dying vegetation 100 feet from all structures
- Create landscape with fire resistant/drought tolerant plants
- Find alternative ways to dispose of landscape debris, such chipping or hauling it to a biomass energy or green waste facility

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](https://www.PreventWildfireCA.org).

For additional information on how to create defensible space, as well as tips to prevent wildfires, visit [www.ReadyForWildfire.org](https://www.ReadyForWildfire.org) and [www.ReadySanDiego.org](https://www.ReadySanDiego.org).

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