

PRESS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Division of Boating and Waterways | Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division | Office of Historic Preservation

For Immediate Release

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Prescribed Fire Burns Planned Beginning January 21 at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park in San Diego County

SAN DIEGO COUNTY, Calif., – The California Department of Parks and Recreation in cooperation with the California Department of Forestry and Fire protection (CAL FIRE) is planning to conduct prescribed burns and pile burns in [Cuyamaca Rancho State Park](#) between January 21, 2021 and May 15, 2021.

These burns are part of a forest health and recovery program including hazardous fuel load reduction, vegetation management, reforestation, watershed function and wildlife habitat improvement, and other ecological benefits. This treatment will enhance the health of the forest by restoring essential nutrients to the soil and reducing the chance of a catastrophic wildfire.

The prescribed burns and pile burns are planned and coordinated with the San Diego Air Pollution Control District in order to minimize smoke impacts on surrounding communities. All burning depends on weather and air quality conditions that are favorable for smoke dispersal. If the conditions, such as weather or vegetation are not conducive for burning, the burns will be rescheduled.

Some public trails near the burn area may be closed the day of the burn. Fire suppression equipment will be staged in the vicinity on the days of the prescribed burning. People traveling near the fire burn areas may see smoke from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the day of the burn or may smell smoke as they pass through the area for three to six days after active burning. County officials urge you to take precautions and use common sense to reduce any harmful health effects by limiting outdoor activities.

Prescribed burns produce significantly less smoke than a wildfire does. If you see or smell smoke in your surroundings, officials recommend avoiding strenuous outdoor activity and remaining indoors as much as possible. These precautions are especially important for children, the elderly and people with respiratory and heart conditions. **Please use extreme caution while driving near prescribed fire operations due to fire personnel and equipment in the area.**

California State Parks, USFS and CAL FIRE are adhering to the safety protocols set by public health officials and have made accommodations to limit exposure among first responders and field crews to protect staff from COVID-19 during prescribed burns.

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California State Parks and the recreational programs supported by its divisions of Boating and Waterways, Historic Preservation and Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation provide the opportunity for families, friends, and communities to connect. Off-highway motor vehicle recreation, boating activities, horseback riding, cycling, hiking, camping, rock climbing, tours, hikes, school group enrichment, and special events are just some of the activities enjoyed in 280 park units organized into 21 field districts throughout the state. Learn more at www.parks.ca.gov.

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Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

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