



# **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**ERIC L.PETERSON  
FIRE CHIEF**

4410 Cathedral Oaks Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **JOINT NEWS RELEASE**

**Ventura County Fire**

**Santa Barbara County Fire**

**CAL FIRE San Luis Obispo Unit**

**CAL FIRE Monterey Unit**

**Los Padres National Forest**

**RELEASE DATE: April 10, 2015**

## **Fire Season**

**Central Coast, CA** – On April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the Los Padres National Forest, Ventura County Fire, Santa Barbara County Fire, CAL FIRE/San Luis Obispo County Fire and CAL FIRE/Monterey are increasing their staffing levels, fire engines, bull dozers, fire crews, helicopters and air tankers for this fire season.

With a fourth year of drought and continuous record breaking temperature this winter, our wildland fire season situation on the Central Coast has unprecedented conditions.

Wildfire intensity is influenced by three factors:

1. Fuel Conditions ( how dry is the vegetation)
2. Topography (the steeper the slope the faster a fire can spread and the more difficult it is to access)
3. Weather (fires burn faster and hotter under dry, hot, windy conditions)

While we do not know what the weather will bring this summer, we do know that our fuel conditions are severe with significant mortality in our brush, oaks and timber. Fire season is always difficult on the Central Coast, but under bad weather conditions this year the burning conditions will substantially challenge our firefighters, and threaten our communities.

[http://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/outlooks/monthly\\_seasonal\\_outlook.pdf](http://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/outlooks/monthly_seasonal_outlook.pdf)

## **Ready, Set, Go!**

With fire activity this spring already above average, the Central Coast should remember “**Ready, Set, Go!**” Being **Ready** for a wildfire starts by maintaining 100 feet of Defensible Space and hardening homes with fire resistant building materials. Being **Set** by having an evacuation plan and Wildfire Action Plan. Lastly, when a wildfire strikes put your evacuation plan in effect and **Go!**; evacuate early.

## **One Less Spark, One Less Wildfire**

Approximately 95 percent of all wildfires are sparked by the activity of people, which means that almost all wildfires are preventable. One of the leading causes of wildfires is outdoor powered equipment. Use powered equipment before 10 a.m. and never on hot and windy days. When clearing dead or dying grass don't use a lawn mower or weed trimmer with a metal blade. Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained with nothing dragging on the ground like trailer chains. All residents and vacationers need to be extra cautious outdoors because one less spark means one less wildfire.

[www.ReadyForWildfire.org](http://www.ReadyForWildfire.org)

With the increase fire conditions on the Central Coast, as of April 13<sup>th</sup> burning restrictions in all four counties are in place. For details please contact your local fire department and the local air pollution control agency. All wildland areas now have the following requirements:

- Spark arresters are required on all off-highway vehicles, chainsaws, and other internal combustion engines and equipment;
- A permit is required for all welding, grinding, cutting, or use of explosives;
- Tracer ammunition is prohibited at all times;
- Fireworks are prohibited in all state responsibility areas and federal lands;
- Burn permits are required where burning is allowed (contact your local fire department and air pollution control agencies for details)

Homeowners in the wildland area are now required to maintain 100 feet of defensible space around all structures on their property. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in a fine. In a joint message from the fire chiefs - *“Our men and women are prepared for fire season. We now need the residents who live in our wildland areas and visitors to our forests to make sure they are.”*

Visitors to the Forest are encouraged to call the local Ranger Station for more information on conditions and camp fire restrictions in the Los Padres Forest.

**Contact Information:**

Captain Dave Zaniboni  
Information Officer  
Office 805- 681-5531  
Cell 805-689-0599  
News Line 805-681-5546  
Email [david.zaniboni@sbcfire.com](mailto:david.zaniboni@sbcfire.com)  
Twitter @SBCFireInfo

All Santa Barbara County Fire Department News Releases are available at [www.sbcfire.com](http://www.sbcfire.com)