
CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Memorial Day Weekend Campfire Safety

First major camping weekend of the year prompts warning from fire service

Sacramento – Memorial Day Weekend is typically the first big camping opportunity of the year for many families and hikers. Since there are many places in California's wildlands that are already critically dry, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) offers these safety tips for campfires:

Building a Campfire:

- Always ensure that your campfire is legal. Check with the jurisdictional agency to make sure that campfires are approved and obtain any necessary permits.
- Clear an area at least 10 ft. in diameter (local regulations may vary).
- Scoop a depression in the center of the cleared area to build the fire, and surround it with rocks.
- Remember sparks can travel up. Never build the fire beneath low branches.
- Cut fire wood in short lengths.
- After the fire is lit, never leave it unattended.
- Make sure the fire is completely extinguished before you leave your campsite.

Last year escaped campfires caused 110 wildfires in California. For more tips on safely enjoying California's wildlands see the CDF website at www.fire.ca.gov

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