



NEWS

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 19, 2014

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Cal Fire is planning a prescribed burn near Mount Hamilton today

Smoke may be visible in parts of the South Bay

SAN FRANCISCO – Cal Fire is planning to conduct a prescribed burn today in the Isabel Valley of Santa Clara County, approximately 25 miles east of the City of San Jose off Mount Hamilton Road. A total of 500 acres of grassland, chaparral and woodland is planned for burning and may be visible in parts of the South Bay.

Prescribed burning is used as a periodic brush management tool to increase plant biodiversity and reduce fuel load which would otherwise be consumed in the event of a larger wildfire. An uncontrolled wildfire could threaten nearby structures, including the historic James Lick Observatory.

Due to the remoteness of the site and prevailing winds, the smoke is expected to be sufficiently dispersed into higher altitudes before reaching populated areas.

Wildland management fires are set for the purpose of removing accumulated plant debris and for natural resource management. They must be set or allowed by a public fire official having jurisdiction, and be necessary. The Air District requires prior notification of these burns along with a smoke management plan to be submitted 30 days in advance. For air quality management purposes, an acreage burning allocation is issued by the Air District each day before the start of any fire.

Open burning is regulated because of its impact on air quality. Certain fires for agricultural purposes, flood control, fire training and the prevention of fire hazards, are allowed when weather conditions are favorable, during specified periods throughout the year. The Air District designates each day of the year as either a BURN or a NO BURN day, and permissible fires can only be set during their established burn season on a designated BURN day.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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