
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit

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Hwy 128 PRESCRIBED BURN

St. Helena – The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit will be conducting a prescribed burn along Highway 128 between the Monticello Dam and the town of Winters in Yolo County. The burning operations are scheduled to be conducted between Monday, June 4th and Wednesday, June 6th. Approximately 65 acres are planned to be burned, with the burning operation starting in the morning each day at 8:30am and ending at 12:00pm to avoid the heat of the day and increased fire activity. Residents can expect to see smoke in the air during this time along with fire apparatus and a CAL FIRE helicopter in the area while the prescribed burn is taking place. Residents and commute traffic can expect single lane traffic control in the area during this time.

This project is a collaboration between CAL FIRE Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit, Yolo County Office of Emergency Services, Winters Fire Department, and Caltrans undertaken after the Winter fire last summer. The area to be treated has seen four large fires in the last four years ranging in size from over 2,000 acres to 8,000 acres. CAL FIRE Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit Chief Shana Jones directed her staff to take steps to prevent another large fire in the future. The involved agencies pooled resources and personnel to create a fire break to prevent fires originating from Highway 128 from spreading into the steep rugged country to the north where topography makes firefighting extremely difficult. The completed line will be approximately 6 miles long ranging from approximately 10 feet wide to 150 feet wide. The project is utilizing existing ranch roads and connecting them with handline constructed by fire crews to minimize the impact to the environment. The control line will allow firefighters to burn the grass on the north side of Highway 128 clearing the area of available fuel for a wildland fire to start.

These prescribed vegetation management burns, are carefully planned and must meet strict criteria for ecological benefit, weather parameters, smoke management, and fire safety guidelines. When all conditions are met, trained wildland firefighters conduct the burn, while monitoring the set criteria, fire behavior, and designated fire control lines. The prescribed burn will comply with requirements of the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District; the District can be contacted at (530) 757-3660.

For more information about fire safety or prescribed fire and its benefits, visit the CAL FIRE website

www.fire.ca.gov or call your local CAL FIRE facility.

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