
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



Amador-El Dorado Unit

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Debris Burning Recommendations

Camino – Debris burning is a common tool used to dispose of vegetation when creating and maintaining defensible space. Since January the Amador- El Dorado Unit of CAL FIRE (AEU), United States Forest Service, and Local Government cooperators have responded to over 25 escaped debris burns. “Don’t let recent rains give you a false sense of security while debris burning, the grass and brush are tinder dry from years of drought and extreme caution must be exercised.” –advised Mike Kaslin, Unit Chief of the CAL FIRE Amador- El Dorado Unit.

CAL FIRE recommends these simple tips to reduce the possibility of an escape;

- Keep burn piles to a manageable size.
- Never leave the fire unattended. An adult needs to be in attendance at all times until the burn pile is dead out.
- Make sure you have proper clearances, clear to mineral soil around the pile and have a shovel and hose on site so that you can quickly put out any fire that may escape.
- Be aware of burning on sloped ground. Burning material may roll downhill and escape control.
- Do not burn on days forecasted to have gusty winds, even if it is a permissible burn day. The wind can carry fire embers and set fires quite a distance from your original burn pile.
- Be considerate of your neighbors and be aware of where the smoke from your burn piles is drifting.

Landowners who lose control of their burn piles may face criminal action and civil liability for fire suppression costs as well as any damages done to others.

You must call the Air Pollution Control District who has the jurisdiction over your area to confirm that it is a burn day prior to starting your burn pile.

Amador County (209) 223-6246

El Dorado County (530) 621-5897

Sacramento County (916) 874-4800

Alpine County (760) 872-8211 ext. 240