CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit

SOQUEL DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST

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Prescribed Fire Planned in Soquel Demonstration State Forest63

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit plans to conduct an approximately 12-acre prescribed burn adjacent to Sulphur Springs Road within the Soquel Demonstration State Forest on Sunday October 12, 2025.

A temporary closure of Sulphur Springs Road, including biking and hiking, will occur during the day of operations and up to several days following the prescribed burn to provide for public and firefighter safety. Please read and follow all signage in and around the Soquel Demonstration State Forest.

The burn, part of the California Vegetation Treatment Program, is scheduled from approximately 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weather permitting. A map of the burn area is available on page 2.

This project is operating under a Smoke Management Plan issued by the Monterey Bay Air Resources District to minimize smoke impacts. The burn aims to benefit the Coast Redwood ecosystem by reducing fuel loading and promoting native species regeneration. This prescribed burn is part of a larger effort to safely reintroduce fire back into the ecosystem so that it can effectively be used as a tool for managing this fire adapted landscape.

Prescribed burns are carefully planned and must meet specific conditions to achieve desired fire behavior. Burning is conducted only when weather and fuel conditions align with the plan. When conditions are optimal, trained wildland firefighters oversee the operation, monitoring weather, smoke dispersal, fire behavior and ensures the fire remains within the planned control lines. CAL FIRE resources will be onsite for several days following the burn monitoring conditions. The public may observe or smell smoke in the immediate area during this time.

Information updates will be posted at:

- The **SDSF Webpage** at https://www.fire.ca.gov/What-We-Do/Natural-Resource-Management/Demonstration-State-Forests/Soquel-Demonstration-State-Forest
- CAL FIRE CZU on **X** @CALFIRECZU
- CAL FIRE Soquel Demonstration State Forest **Facebook** page @CALFIRESoquel

