

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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CAL FIRE CZU to Perform Prescribed Burn on Lower Empire Grade

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) San Mateo–Santa Cruz Unit will conduct an approximately 11-acre prescribed burn near Twin Gates off Empire Grade at Marshall Field in Santa Cruz County. Weather permitting, the burn will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Smoke may be noticed in the area for one to two days after the burn. The project is being conducted in accordance with a smoke management permit issued by the Monterey Bay Air Resources District to minimize the smoke impacts on surrounding communities.

This burn is being conducted as part of CAL FIRE's Vegetation Management Program and is intended to benefit coastal prairie habitat, prevent encroachment of trees and shrubs, regenerate native species and restore and enhance grassland.

Prescribed burns are carefully planned controlled burns that must meet a predefined set of conditions (prescription) to achieve ideal fire behavior. No burning takes place if weather and fuel conditions are not within prescription. When optimal conditions are met, trained wildland firefighters manage the burn while monitoring the weather, smoke dispersal, and fire behavior.

This prescribed fire was planned as part of broader strategic efforts to protect the local community and nearby natural resources. These plans are informed by community and local stakeholder input and serve as a collaborative effort with a range of cooperators throughout the course of the project. This project adds to significant work underway throughout the state and brings California one step closer towards meeting or exceeding state fuels reduction goals directed by the California Fire Plan and the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. To track the progress being made, both in your community and throughout California, please visit the CAL FIRE fuels reduction dashboard at <https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/prescribed-fire> help share important preventing and preparedness information with your neighbors at readyforwildfire.org.



