



**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FIRE**  
*in cooperation with CAL FIRE*  
**NEWS RELEASE**

**UNIT FIRE CHIEF**

*John Owens*

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**MECHANICAL TREATMENT IN DEAD/DRY VEGETATION**

*County of San Luis Obispo* – During the month of July 2024, CAL FIRE/ San Luis Obispo County Fire Department responded to multiple wildland fires due to mowing, weed eating and disking. *Knowing When to Mow* means - mowing, weed eating and disking prior to 10:00 AM, never on windy days and always with a water source available.

**California Public Resource Code 4442 requires spark arresters on internal combustion engines.**

Lawn mowers are for green lawns not for dead/dry vegetation. Once a lawn mower is used on dead/dry vegetation such as annual grasses the blades on a lawn mower can strike rocks or metal objects within the dead/dry vegetation. The strike will cause a fire.

Weed eaters used in dead/dry vegetation can also start a fire via metal blades, wire in the string, metal head and the heat of motor/exhaust once placed in dead/dry vegetation.

Tractor Disking in dead dry vegetation can cause a fire due to the metal disks striking rocks in dead/dry vegetation will cause a fire.

For more information, please visit  
[www.ReadyForWildfire.org](http://www.ReadyForWildfire.org).

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