

NEWS RELEASE

CAL FIRE SAN LUIS OBISPO UNIT

Unit Chief
John Owens



Aug 18th, 2026

CAL FIRE TO CONDUCT PRESCRIBED BURN ON MORRO DUNES ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

San Luis Obispo, CA — In collaboration with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District, CAL FIRE's San Luis Obispo Unit will conduct a prescribed burn as part of an ongoing habitat restoration project.

WHAT: The prescribed fire will consist of burn piles of cut vegetation.

WHEN: Burning is planned for **August 18–20, weather permitting**. Due to the amount of vegetation being removed, this will be an ongoing project requiring multiple burn days. **Additional burning is anticipated August 24–27**, as weather and conditions permit.

WHERE: Morro Dunes Ecological Reserve, Bayview Unit, Los Osos, Calif.

WHY: This operation is designed to promote regeneration of three rare, threatened, and endangered plant species that are either fire-dependent or benefit from fire: Bishop pine (*Pinus muricata*), Morro manzanita (*Arctostaphylos morroensis*), and Indian Knob mountainbalm (*Eriodictyon altissimum*). The project will also reduce the accumulation of flammable vegetation that contributes to catastrophic wildfires, to increase community wildfire defense.

This prescribed burn is part of a proactive, science-based approach to land management. Fire personnel will be on site throughout the operation, and every precaution will be taken to ensure safe execution under favorable weather conditions. Smoke may be visible in the surrounding areas, and residents are advised not to report the fire unless there is an emergency unrelated to this controlled operation.

CDFW and CAL FIRE remain committed to reducing wildfire risk through strategic partnerships, community collaboration, and environmentally responsible land stewardship.

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