

# NEWS RELEASE

CAL FIRE SAN LUIS OBISPO UNIT

Unit Chief  
John Owens



January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## **PRESCRIBED PILE BURN PLANNED IN HERITAGE RANCH AREA TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK**

**Heritage Ranch, CA** - CAL FIRE San Luis Obispo Unit, in cooperation with partner agencies, plans to conduct a prescribed pile burn as part of the Heritage Ranch Fuel Break Project in the community of Heritage Ranch near Lake Nacimiento. The burn is scheduled to begin February 3, 2026, and may continue through February 5, 2026, weather and conditions permitting.

Burn operations are expected to occur daily between 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. During this time, residents in and around Heritage Ranch and the Lake Nacimiento area may see smoke in the vicinity.

The purpose of this prescribed burn is to manage vegetation and reduce excess fuel loading in the area. Using prescribed fire in this manner enhances natural resources and supports fire management goals by reducing wildfire risk, improving rangeland production, and promoting a more diverse and resilient vegetation structure.

The project is being conducted on private property and will involve two hand crews and two fire engines. CAL FIRE is coordinating with the Air Pollution Control District (APCD) to ensure the burn is conducted safely and in compliance with all applicable regulations.

Smoke impacts are expected to be temporary. CAL FIRE works closely with the APCD to minimize impacts to the public and will only proceed when weather conditions allow for good smoke dispersion.

Residents are encouraged to plan accordingly and to limit outdoor activity if smoke becomes noticeable. Those with respiratory sensitivities should take appropriate precautions.

Prescribed fire is a critical tool used by fire agencies to reduce the intensity of future wildfires and improve overall public safety. By working together to manage vegetation and reduce fire hazards, we can help protect our community while supporting healthy ecosystems.

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