NEWS RELEASE

CAL FIRE San Luis Obispo Unit

Unit Chief
John Owens

November 7th, 2026

CAL FIRE PARTNERS WITH RANGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION FOR PRESCRIBED BURN NEAR SANTA MARIA

San Luis Obispo County, CA — CAL FIRE San Luis Obispo Unit (SLU), in partnership with the San Luis Obispo Range Improvement Association and local landowners, plans to conduct the Porter Ranch Prescribed Burn northeast of Santa Maria on Monday, November 9th, 2026, weather and air quality conditions permitting.

Approximately 668 acres will be treated off of Alamo Creek Road near Highway 166, with burning expected to begin around 8:00 a.m. and conclude by 8:00 p.m.

The project is part of an ongoing collaborative effort to improve rangeland health, reduce hazardous wildfire fuels, and promote ecological resilience. Prescribed fire helps manage vegetation by reducing fuel accumulation, breaking up continuous fuel beds, and encouraging a more diverse and healthy landscape.

CAL FIRE's partnership with the San Luis Obispo Range Improvement Association supports the responsible use of prescribed fire as a land management tool, combining local landowner knowledge with professional fire management resources to reduce wildfire risk and improve natural resources.

Smoke may be visible throughout the surrounding area, including along Highway 166. Motorists are encouraged to use caution when traveling near the burn area, as fire personnel and equipment may be operating nearby.

The prescribed burn is being coordinated with the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD), National Weather Service, California Air Resources Board, and participating landowners. Burning will only proceed under favorable weather and air quality conditions.

For current air quality information, visit **SLOCleanAir.org**.

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