

NEWS RELEASE

SAN LUIS OBISPO UNIT

Unit Chief
John Owens



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Heat Wave, Early Fuel Drying, and Announces Temporary Burn Suspension

San Luis Obispo, CA – CAL FIRE San Luis Obispo Unit, in collaboration with the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD), is urging the public to take precautions as an early season heat wave moves into the Central Coast. Forecasted warm temperatures are expected to push conditions above seasonal averages through June, and with below normal rainfall anticipated through April, grass and brush across the county are drying out earlier than usual.

“Early season rains produced robust grass growth across the county,” said Battalion Chief Luke Bourgault. “Those grasses will begin curing quickly in May and June, and once they do, we could see fast moving fires in the right conditions.”

In response to the elevated fire risk, **CAL FIRE San Luis Obispo Unit has declared a temporary burn suspension for all of San Luis Obispo County from March 13 through March 15, 2026.** The suspension is being implemented due to unsafe fire conditions, including elevated temperatures and gusty winds.

Statewide fire potential is forecast to remain near normal through May, but activity is expected to increase in June as fine fuels continue to dry.

“These conditions also bring an increased risk of heat related injuries,” Bourgault added. “While live vegetation currently holds enough moisture to reduce the likelihood of catastrophic wildfires in most areas right now, we still need the community’s help. Use equipment safely, avoid parking in dry grass, and take steps to protect your home and your neighbors.”

CAL FIRE and the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District will continue to monitor conditions and provide updates as the season progresses.

For more information on wildfire preparedness, visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org.

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