

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Backyard burn season ends in Santa Cruz County on April 30, 2024

FELTON - On Tuesday April 30, 2024 the backyard burn season ends. That is the last day residential burning is permitted in Santa Cruz County utilizing the “Guidelines for Pile Burning.” Starting Wednesday May 1, 2024, all burning in Santa Cruz County (except campfires) will require an approved General Burn Permit which requires a site inspection and a physical permit issued through the [BurnPermit.fire.ca.gov](https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov) website. This suspension bans all residential outdoor burning of landscape debris such as branches and leaves.

While outdoor burning of landscape debris by homeowners is no longer allowed, CAL FIRE is asking residents to take that extra time to prepare your home for wildfire by creating defensible space and hardening your home ahead of wildfires. Here are some tips to help prepare homes and property:

- Clear all dead and or dying vegetation 100 feet from around all structures.
- Landscape with fire resistant plants and non-flammable ground cover.
- Find alternative ways to dispose of landscape debris like chipping or hauling it to a biomass energy or green waste facility.

The department may issue restricted temporary burning permits if there is an essential reason due to public health and safety. Agriculture, land management, fire training, and other industrial type burning may proceed if a CAL FIRE official inspects the burn site and issues a special permit.

The suspension of burn permits for residential landscape debris does not apply to campfires within organized campgrounds or on private property. Campfires may be permitted if the campfire is maintained in such a manner as to prevent its spread to the wildland. A valid campfire permit is required and can be obtained online at <https://readyforwildfire.org/>.

