

May 22nd, 2023  
MEDIA RELEASE/PRESS EVENT  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Public invited to observe prescribed fire training June 4-9, 2023 at various Monterey Bay area locations, as part of the first California Central Coast Cal-TREX (Training Exchange)**

Carmel Valley, CA -- For the first time on California's Central Coast, fire practitioners from across California, greater North America and international locations (Spain, Honduras, Costa Rica, Ecuador) are joining forces to hold a CA Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (Cal-TREX) June 3-10. The training will be hosted by the [Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association](https://calpba.org/centralcoastpba) which empowers the public to build a culture of good fire and helps private landowners conduct prescribed burns in Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties. Prescribed burns will be open for the public to observe on various days throughout the training, most likely June 4-9th. Please see the CCPBA webpage for updates on upcoming burns: [calpba.org/centralcoastpba](https://calpba.org/centralcoastpba)

[Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges \(TREX\)](#)- first came to Northern California in 2013, and have made a dynamic, positive cultural shift concerning prescribed fire, within both regional fire services and the general public. These “good fire” TREX events have drawn significant attention, especially in the context of more severe wildfire seasons.



(TREX burn 2022. Photo credit J. Childress)

After months of cross-organizational, cooperative planning, the week-long training will be burning a mix of grassland, oaks and shrub vegetation types, and make a lasting, positive change concerning “good fire” on the Central Coast. The TREX will provide experiential training opportunities to advance regional prescribed fire capacity, while also enhancing research to better understand the ecological response of wild plant and animal species following fire.

At this TREX event, participants will learn how to safely conduct prescribed burns in various vegetation types across three counties. Along with multiple prescribed burns, the week-long program will include lectures and seminars on local fire ecology of plant and animal species, tribal burning practices and burn planning, led by multiple Burn Bosses and other experts.

Burn locations may include: the **Nyland property** (owned by the Trust for Public Lands and San Benito Ag Land Trust) near San Juan Bautista, the **Mount Madonna Center** (owned by Hanuman Fellowship) near Watsonville, the **Santa Lucia Conservancy** near Carmel Valley and the **Kechun Village** (owned by the Nason family) in Arroyo Seco. Be advised, while the CCTREX works closely with the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) to assure good smoke dispersal, smoke may be seen and present in these areas during/after a burn. Please see the CCPBA webpage for updates on upcoming burns: [calpba.org/centralcoastpba](https://calpba.org/centralcoastpba)

[Burn Bot](#), a new technology featuring a mobile burn chamber, remote-controlled mastication and fire drone systems, will be used on the 4th.

Participants and partners include members of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR), Resource Conservation District of Monterey County, CALFIRE, local land trusts, scientists, ranchers, students, researchers, land managers and others.

To observe the [burn on June 4th register here](#) or for more information, contact our Public Information Officer:

*Jamie Tuitele-Lewis, Fire Fuel Mitigation Program and Forest Health Coordinator, [jtlewis@rcdmonterey.org](mailto:jtlewis@rcdmonterey.org)*

*Barb Satink Wolfson, UCCE Area Fire Advisor, [bsatinkwolfson@ucanr.edu](mailto:bsatinkwolfson@ucanr.edu)*

####



(TREX burn 2022. Photo credit J. Childress)