
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

Media Line &
Public Information:

831-647-6257

Release Date:
Time:

September 8, 2020
10:00 A.M.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



SMOKE & DUST WHIRLS ADVISORY FOR RIVER AND CARMEL FIRES

With hot weather conditions affecting us throughout Monterey County and combined with prior fire activity from the Carmel and River fires, many remain vigilant and on high alert. We would like to remind the public that fire personnel are patrolling the fires perimeter and the interior of the fires edge. While we monitor the areas, we have seen smoke from unburn pockets of vegetation along with dust whirls/devils that appear to look like smoke or active fire. This activity is “normal” due to the hot weather and heated surfaces. This occurs when a pocket of hot air near the surface rises quickly through cooler air above it, forming an updraft. If conditions are just right, the updraft may begin to rotate. The secondary flow in the dust whirl causes other hot air to speed horizontally inward to the bottom of the newly forming vortex. If you see something that appears to look like a fire, please understand that this may be secondary to the current hot weather conditions, dust, and ash. This does not pose a danger. We ask that you contact 911 only if fire is observed outside of the River or Carmel fire perimeters.

SAFETY MESSAGE:

If you see electrical wires on the ground, stay clear and contact PG&E immediately. Power may be out when you return home. For those who may be utilizing backup generators, please review the generator use safety information at https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/electrical-safety/electric-generator-safety/electric-generator-safety.page?WT.pgeac=PSPS_FAQ-GeneratorSafety. Trees and poles with deep charring, particularly if still smoldering, should be considered hazardous. Please drive slowly and yield to emergency personnel in the area.

For additional information on the River and Carmel Fires, Monterey County residents should contact River and Carmel Fires Information Line at (831) 647-6257 or 211. To sign up for emergency alert notifications visit: www.alertmontereycounty.org

If returning home after evacuation, we would like to remind the public of the risk of potential hazards like trees and rocks that may have become loosened by fire.

For more information on wildfire, visit CAL FIRE online at www.readyforwildfire.org.

###