

PRESS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Division of Boating and Waterways | Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division | Office of Historic Preservation

For Immediate Release

Sept. 28, 2018

Media Contacts:

California State Parks Dan Falat District Superintendent (805)927-2065	CAL FIRE Alan Peters Forester (805)593-3406	Air Pollution Control District Gary Willey Air Pollution Control Officer (805)781-5912	Morro Bay Fire Dept. Steve Knuckles Chief (805)772-6242
---	--	---	--

Prescribed Fire Operations Planned at Several Coastal State Parks in San Luis Obispo County

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. - The California Department of Parks and Recreation tentatively plans to conduct prescribed burns in several coastal state parks within San Luis Obispo County (County) between October 2, 2018 and May 31, 2019. The effort will be carried out in cooperation with CAL FIRE, the Morro Bay Fire Department and the Air Pollution Control District.

Burning may occur in Hearst San Simeon, Montana de Oro, Morro Bay, Estero Bluffs and Harmony Headlands state parks. The work will include grassland and coastal scrub burns, as well as broadcast and pile burns to address diseased, dead and downed Monterey pines.

These burns are part of the prescribed fire program for vegetation management and fuel load reduction. The Monterey pine forests at Hearst San Simeon and Morro Bay state parks are experiencing major die-offs due to pine pitch canker disease, compounded by years of drought. This treatment will enhance the health of the forests by removing diseased materials, restoring essential nutrients to the soil, and reducing the chance of a catastrophic wildfire.

The prescribed burns will reduce dangerous fuel loads adjacent to housing communities. In grassland and scrub areas, fire will be reintroduced as a component of the ecosystem on a rotational basis.

Please note that these prescribed burns are planned and coordinated with the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District and the California Air Resources Board in order to minimize the smoke impacts on surrounding communities. All burning is dependent on weather and air quality conditions that are favorable for smoke dispersal. If conditions are not as desired, the burns will be re-scheduled. For burn schedule announcements, you can follow the APCD on Twitter: @SLOCleanAir or on their web site at SLOCleanAir.org

Some public trails near the burn area may be closed the day of the burn. People in Cambria, Harmony, Morro Bay, Cayucos, San Simeon Acres, and Los Osos, or those traveling near the coast may see smoke from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the day of the burns. In the unlikely event you smell smoke, County officials urge you to take precautions and use common sense to reduce any harmful health effects by limiting outdoor activities. These precautions are especially important for children, the elderly and people with respiratory and heart conditions. **Please use extreme caution while driving near prescribed fire operations due to fire personnel and equipment in the area.**

###

Subscribe to California State Parks News online at www.parks.ca.gov/news or email us at newsroom@parks.ca.gov.

California State Parks provides for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. Learn more at www.parks.ca.gov.

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Blog](#) | [Periscope](#) | [Flickr](#)