

July

Division of Environmental Services

Safety message

Rim Fire, 2014

...from the Division Chief

With another year of drought upon us, I would like to remind everyone to be safe and vigilant. The drought has created conditions that are dryer earlier than they normally would be. The dry conditions increase the potential for a fire to be accidentally started.

Think about ways you can decrease fire hazards at home and at work. Consider the flammability of the clothing you are wearing. If you will be in a high fire risk area, wear clothing that has a low probability of catching fire.

Prevention is always the best course of action, and will help minimize potential damage. Fire emergencies and disasters can happen at anytime to anyone. If it does, follow A.C.T. – Assess the Situation, Choose Your Response, Take Action.

Together we can prevent fires and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Dean Messer, Chief
Division of Environmental Services

Tips for Preventing Fires

- Equipment Use Safety: Never use lawn mowers in dry vegetation. Mow before 10am on a day when it is not hot and windy. Use a spark arrester on portable gasoline powered equipment.
- Vehicle Safety: Never pull over in dry grass. Make sure that trailer chains aren't dragged on the ground. Properly maintain your vehicle. Check tire pressure to avoid driving on the wheel rim. Check brake pads, and replace if necessary.
- Smoke Alarm Safety: Install smoke alarms on every level of your home inside bedrooms and sleeping areas. Check your smoke alarms once a month, if they're not working, change the batteries. Replace your smoke alarm every 10 years. Hint: Write the expiration date on them in permanent marker so you won't forget!
- Campfire Safety: Before starting a campfire, make sure you have a campfire permit and that they are permitted where you are camped. Ensure that your campfire is properly extinguished.
- Clothes Dryer Safety: Have it installed by a professional. Use the correct electrical plug and outlet. Clean the lint filter after each load of laundry. Clean lint out of the vent pipe every three months. Don't put items that have come in contact with anything flammable (i.e. alcohol, oil, or gasoline) in the dryer.

Think Safety visit <http://www.water.ca.gov/environmentalservices/safety.cfm>;
<http://swpsafety.water.ca.gov> for more information. Send Safety suggestions to: dessafety@water.ca.gov