

US Forest Service

San Bernardino National Forest

602 S. Tippecanoe Ave San Bernardino, CA 92408



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Winter Pile Burning underway on the San Bernardino National Forest

San Bernardino, Calif., November 26, 2008 – Fire crews have started winter pile burning at various locations across the San Bernardino National Forest. The favorable change in weather now provides opportunities to resume annual winter pile burning activities on hazardous fuels reduction projects within the forest. Smoke and flame may be occasionally visible from the roadways, firefighters will have “prescribed fire” signs posted in project areas. The winter burning program will continue through early spring as weather and conditions permit.

Pile burning and broadcast burning are part of fuels treatments that include mechanical removal of vegetation. Fuel reduction projects near mountain communities include removing dead trees as well as thinning and stacking piles of dense brush, and burning the piles in the wet season.

“Burning of the slash piles is part of a continuing effort to reduce the risk of wildfires spreading into communities,” stated San Bernardino National Forest Deputy Fire Chief Rocky Opliger. “Firefighters continually evaluate the current weather, weather forecasts, fuels conditions and will take appropriate actions as needed,” Chief Opliger added.

Local residents can help by assuring their property is fire safe. Residents in the local mountains can get assistance and advice in a number of ways:

- Contacting your Local Fire Safe Council to get tips on fire safety and what homeowners can do around their property. Find your local council on the web at <http://www.firesafecouncil.org>
- Forest Care Program provides up to 75% reimbursement for thinning and clearance. For more information call 1-888- 883-8446 or visit Forest Care on the web at: <http://www.sbnfa.com/forestcare.php>
- Residents in both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties can find a wealth of information on the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) website at: <http://www.calmast.org/>

For more information regarding pile burn locations, or any other questions about your National Forest, please call your local Ranger Station at:

Arrowhead Ranger Station	909-382-2758
Big Bear Ranger Station & Discovery Center	909-382-2790
Cajon Ranger Station	909-382-2850
Idyllwild Ranger Station	909-382-2922
San Geronimo Ranger Station	909-382-2881

For additional information about the San Bernardino National Forest, please visit:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino/>

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