
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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RELEASE
DATE: May 5, 2008

Governor Declares Wildfire Awareness Week CAL FIRE Encourages Fire Prevention & Defensible Space

Sacramento – Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has declared May 4-10 Wildfire Awareness Week, to remind Californians to be vigilant in their efforts by highlighting the homeowner’s role in helping themselves and their property survive a wildfire.

“Fire season has already begun, with flames burning and threatening homes above the cities of Sierra Madre and Arcadia,” said Governor Schwarzenegger. “This underscores the importance of vigilance, and I hope that all those who live, work and play in our state’s wildlands must recognize the risks and take every precaution to protect themselves, their property and our natural resources.

CAL FIRE will be conducting fire prevention demonstrations throughout the state this week to show the importance of wildfire safety. “Wildfire Awareness Week is designed to remind Californians of their ability to make their homes fire safe,” said Chief Ruben Grijalva, CAL FIRE director. “CAL FIRE is making a significant effort to ensure that Californians in wildfire hazard areas know that state law and the safety of their property requires them to create 100 feet of defensible space around their homes. Homeowners today can help assure the survival of their home tomorrow.

This year’s theme builds off “Defensible Space is Your Responsibility” and incorporates “Wildfires... Will your home survive?” The two-pronged approach focuses on how defensible space helps reduce vegetation and other flammable material around homes to keep direct flames and entice heat away from the side of buildings, and how exterior wildfire exposure protection, or fire resistant building materials, prevents the chance of your home catching fire from burning embers.

CAL FIRE will use Wildfire Awareness Week as an opportunity to answer questions about fire safety and how to be better prepared in an emergency situation.

Wildfire Awareness Week schedule:

- Tuesday, May 6 : Kick-off for Wildfire Awareness Week, CAL FIRE Aviation Unit, McClellan Park in Sacramento

To view the full Governor’s proclamation: <http://gov.ca.gov/proclamation/9453/>

For more information on the event, visit www.fire.ca.gov.