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## High fire danger prompts new MOFD ordinance

By Nick Marnell



MOFD conducts wildland training exercises at Painted Rock in June. Photo courtesy MOFD

and 13 structure fires. And the following week, the spread of a vegetation fire in Moraga was slowed by previously completed fuel mitigation efforts.

Historically, the worst is on the way. Which is why the district board passed an urgency ordinance at its July 15 meeting to ban open burning and recreational fires during periods of high fire danger, which the district considers as running from late July until the fall rains arrive.

"After attempts at education, the penalty will be \$500 for each day of violation," Fire Chief Dave Winnacker said.

The prohibition does not apply to manufactured products such as gas barbecues or fire pits that comply with the district fire code, or to campfires on private lands with an MOFD-issued fire permit. Enclosed barbecues do not produce embers, the chief said, and flying embers are a major problem during periods of high fire danger.

The ordinance takes effect Aug. 15.

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