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Helpful mitigation tips to keep wildfires at bay

By Jennifer Wake



This vegetation fire in Sanders Ranch on Oct. 11, 2020 was ignited by a resident mowing tall grass. Photo courtesy MOFD

significant vegetation fires had been caused by residents carrying out late season fuel mitigation work.

Due to the extreme drought conditions, vegetation is at a critical level of dryness and local fire districts urge residents to be cognizant of potential hazards involved in fuel mitigation. The California Wildland Fire Coordinating Group advises not to use lawn mowers on weeds or dry grass, reminding folks that metal blades striking rocks can start a fire, and to mow before 10 a.m. (but not when it's windy or excessively dry). The CWFCG also says to keep a shovel, fire extinguisher, and cell phone handy in case problems arise and to avoid driving cars on dry grass, since hot exhaust pipes and mufflers can be a source of ignition.

ConFire's FIU urges residents to help them fight the crime of arson across the county by calling the Arson Tip line at 1-866-50-ARSON. Tips can be anonymous, but all tips are treated confidentially. Fire investigators sometimes need additional information, so inclusion of name and phone number is encouraged. For other fire safety tips, visit www.cccfpd.org or www.mofd.org

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