

# When you see the red flag

## Here's What To Do:



*Firefighters will raise red flags at fire stations in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties to warn residents of extreme fire weather, as warnings are issued by the National Weather Service. These Red Flags, created by the Diablo FireSafe Council, are part of the effort to make homes and communities safer from wildland fire.*

Lack of rain, dry vegetation, low humidity and strong winds make fire seasons especially severe. Several days a year, typically during the Fall, these factors combine, making it easier for fires to start and more difficult to put them out. When these weather conditions reach critical levels we all need to take extra care. On these Red Flag Days local Fire Chiefs urge you to follow these important guidelines:

- **DO:** Be alert and report any small fires immediately by calling 9-1-1. Be prepared to provide information on the fire's exact location.
- **DO:** Have a plan for gathering family members, pets and valuables in case an approaching wild-fire requires evacuation.

- **DO:** Always mow before 10 am when grass has the most moisture.
- **DO:** After use, place tools and vehicles with hot catalytic converters (mowers, weed eaters, chain saws, motorcycles) only on paved or dirt areas (not grass).
- **DO:** Use extra caution with charcoal and gas barbecues. Be sure to use your barbecue in a clear area, away from dry grass or brush. Make sure coals are cold before disposing of them.
- **DO:** Obey park or trail closure signs and any other restrictions (such as no campfires, barbecues, or smoking).
- **DO:** Contact your local fire agency for specific concerns and requirements.
- **DO NOT:** Discard cigarettes or other smoking materials on roadsides or dry grass. Dispose of them properly in a non-combustible container.
- **DO NOT:** Shoot off fireworks. All fireworks are a potential hazard, including the "safe and sane" types, such as Sparklers. (In some communities, ALL fireworks are illegal).
- **DO NOT:** Park cars on weeds or dry grass. Weeds and grass are highly combustible, so use caution where you park.
- **DO NOT:** Use lawnmowers on dry weeds. Lawnmowers are for lawns.

*Here are some tips on what to do BEFORE fire season arrives: Remove tree limbs within 10 feet of any chimneys or stovepipes; Remove pine needles and leaves from roofs, eaves, and rain gutters; Clear flammable vegetation to a minimum of 100 feet or to the property line; Clear pathways to allow firefighters easy access to your house; And always be alert!*

