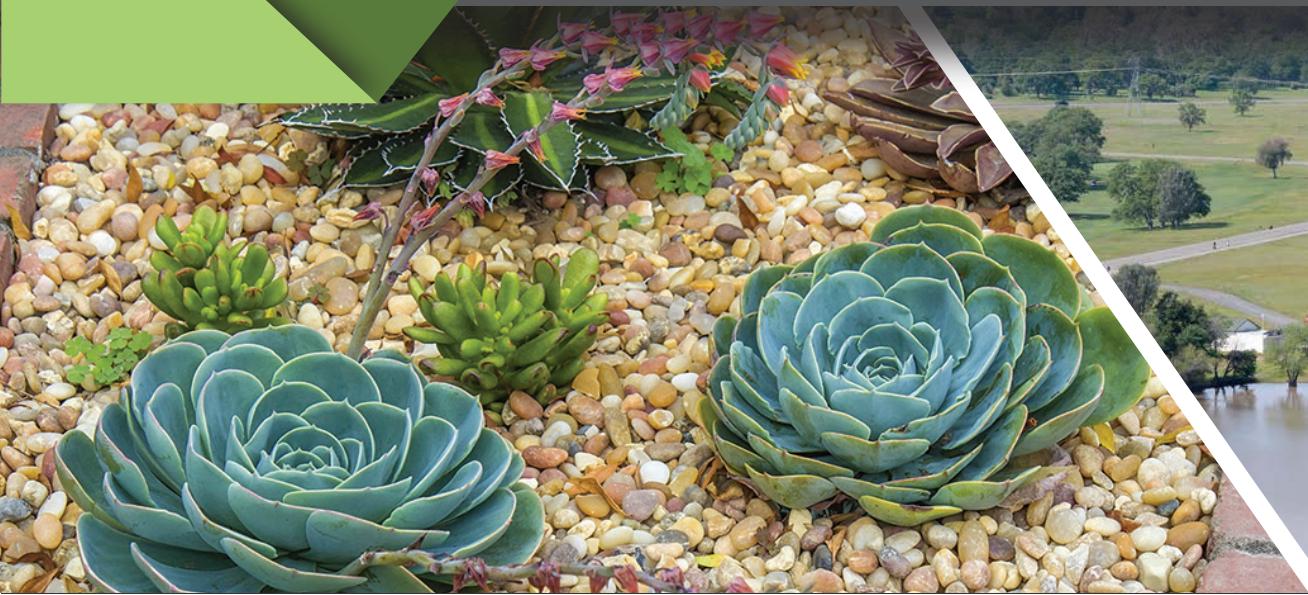




2017 BUTTE COUNTY FIRE SAFETY AND WATER CONSERVATION GUIDE



A Special Section From

Serving Orosi and the north state since 1853
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CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire

Also serving the cities of Biggs, Gridley and Town of Paradise

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Duty PIO
530-521-8265

RELEASE Wednesday, June
DATE: 14, 2017

CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Distributes Wildland Evacuation Plans to County Communities

Butte County - CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire will be mailing updated Wildland Evacuation Plans to various communities in Butte County in the coming weeks. These plans are designed to provide residents with community specific information they need to "Get Ready, Set and Go" during any type of emergency.

These plans were developed jointly by CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire, Butte County Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, local public safety agencies and Fire Safe Councils, and cover the communities of Berry Creek, Forest Ranch, Butte Meadows, Cohasset, Lower Paradise, The Town of Paradise, Upper Ridge, Butte Creek Canyon, Butte Valley, Forbestown, Feather Falls and Clipper Mills.

In addition to receiving these evacuation plans in the mail, residents can access and download an electronic version of the document at www.buttecounty.net/oem/DisasterPreparedness.

"Now is the time for residents to review their plans, follow the steps to prepare their families, and be ready to evacuate in the event of an emergency," stated Division Chief David Hawks.

This project was funded through a State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund (SRAFPF) Grant and a grant from the Discovery Shop in Chico to the Paradise Ridge Fire Safe Council.



... CAMPFIRE SAFETY ...

Be sure to obtain a campfire permit; it's valid from the date issued until the end of the calendar year. They are required to have campfire or portable gas stoves on public lands. Check to ensure there aren't any local fire restrictions in the area. During periods of high fire danger, campfires may be restricted. Also, keep a shovel and bucket of water nearby at all times.

Camping Fire Safety - How to Build an Open Campfire

Select a level, open location away from heavy fuels such as logs, brush or decaying leaves and needles. Clear an area at least 10 feet in diameter (local regulations may vary). Scrape away grass, leaves or needles down to the mineral soil. Scoop a depression in the center of the cleared area in which to build the fire and put a ring of rocks around it. Cut wood in short lengths, pile within cleared area and light the fire. The fire should be built no larger than necessary. Your fire must never be left unattended and the fire must be extinguished completely before leaving.

While the Fire is Burning - Open Fire Safety

Always keep a shovel and bucket of water nearby at all times. While the fire is burning, be sure there is a responsible person in attendance of the fire at all times. Never leave children around a fire unattended. How to Completely Extinguish an Open Campfire Use the “drown, stir and feel” method: drown the fire with water, then stir around the fire area with your shovel to wet any remaining embers and ash. Be sure to turn wood and coals over and wet all sides. Move some dirt onto the fire site and mix thoroughly to fully smother it. And finally, feel the area with the back of your hand to ensure nothing is still smoldering. - See more at: <http://www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfires/>

EQUIPMENT SAFETY

Practice Using Equipment Safely

LEARN HOW TO USE OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT PROPERLY TO HELP KEEP FROM SPARKING A WILDFIRE:

MOWING

SPARK ARRESTERS

KEEP THE EXHAUST SYSTEM, SPARK ARRESTERS AND MOWER IN PROPER WORKING ORDER AND FREE OF CARBON BUILDUP.

EQUIPMENT USE

DON'T DRIVE YOUR VEHICLE ONTO DRY GRASS OR BRUSH. HOT EXHAUST PIPES AND MUFFLERS CAN START FIRES THAT YOU WON'T EVEN SEE—UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!

TERAIN

TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY, DO NOT CLEAR VEGETATION NEAR WATERWAYS TO BARE SOIL.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A PRINT-READY CAMPFIRE PERMIT VISIT:
[#PREVENTWILDFIRE #ONELESSSPARK](http://PREVENTWILDFIRECA.ORG)**

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MOW BEFORE 10 A.M., BUT NEVER WHEN IT'S WINDY OR EXCESSIVELY DRY.

LAWN MOWERS ARE DESIGNED TO MOW LAWNS, NOT WEEDS OR DRY GRASS.

METAL BLADES STRIKING ROCKS CAN CREATE SPARKS AND START FIRES.

IN WILDLAND AREAS, SPARK ARRESTERS ARE REQUIRED ON ALL PORTABLE GASOLINE-POWERED EQUIPMENT. THIS INCLUDES TRACTORS, HARVESTERS, CHAINSAWS, WEEDEATERS AND MOWERS.

USE THE RECOMMENDED GRADE OF FUEL AND DON'T TOP IT OFF.

KEEP A SHOVEL AND A FIRE EXTINGUISHER READY TO USE.

IN WILDLAND AREAS, GRINDING AND WELDING OPERATIONS REQUIRE A PERMIT AND 10-FEET OF CLEARANCE.

DON'T DRIVE YOUR VEHICLE ONTO DRY GRASS OR BRUSH. HOT EXHAUST PIPES AND MUFFLERS CAN START FIRES THAT YOU WON'T EVEN SEE—UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!

KEEP A CELL PHONE NEARBY AND CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY IN CASE OF FIRE.

TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY, DO NOT CLEAR VEGETATION NEAR WATERWAYS TO BARE SOIL.

VEGETATION REMOVAL CAN CAUSE SOIL EROSION, ESPECIALLY ON STEEP SLOPES.

KEEP SOIL DISTURBANCE TO A MINIMUM.

ONE LESS SPARK ONE LESS WILDFIRE

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CAL FIRE SINCE 1855

CONSERVING WATER: ALWAYS THE RIGHT TIME

The drought might be currently lifted in California after years of dry terrain, but water conservation is as important as ever before. Saving this precious resource is easy to do, with a few simple tricks. Locally, there are a number of excellent resources for your conservation needs, including the Butte Environmental Council's Watershed Program (www.becnet.org), and CalWater's conservation kit program (<https://www.calwater.com/conservation/conservation-kits/>).

Check out these 25 tips for water conservation, courtesy of eartheasy.com.

1. Check faucets and pipes for leaks

A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons.

2. Don't use the toilet as an ashtray or waste-basket

Every time you flush a cigarette butt, facial tissue or other small bit of trash, five to seven gallons of water is wasted.

3. Check your toilets for leaks

Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl within 30 min-

utes, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately. Most replacement parts are inexpensive and easy to install.

4. Use your water meter to check for hidden water leaks

Read the house water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.

5. Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators.

Inexpensive water-saving low-flow shower heads or restrictors are easy for the homeowner to install. Also, long, hot showers can use five to ten gallons every unneeded minute. Limit your showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down and rinse off. "Low-flow" means it uses less than 2.5 gallons per minute. You can easily install a ShowerStart showerhead, or add a ShowerStart converter to existing showerheads, which automatically pauses a running shower once it gets warm. Also, all household faucets should be fit with aerators. This single best home water conservation method is also the cheapest!

6. Put plastic bottles or float booster in your toilet tank

To cut down on water waste, put an inch or two of sand or pebbles inside

each of two plastic bottles to weigh them down. Fill the bottles with water, screw the lids on, and put them in your toilet tank, safely away from the operating mechanisms. Or, buy an inexpensive tank bank or float booster. This may save ten or more gallons of water per day.

Be sure at least 3 gallons of water remain in the tank so it will flush properly. If there is not enough water to get a proper flush, users will hold the lever down too long or do multiple flushes to get rid of waste. Two flushings at 1.4 gallons is worse than a single 2.0 gallon flush. A better suggestion would be to buy an adjustable toilet flapper that allows for adjustment of their per flush use. Then the user can adjust the flush rate to the minimum per flush setting that achieves a single good flush each time.

For new installations, consider buying "low flush" toilets, which use 1 to 2 gallons per flush instead of the usual 3 to 5 gallons.

Replacing an 18 liter per flush toilet with an ultra-low volume (ULV) 6 liter flush model represents a 70% savings in water flushed and will cut indoor water use by about 30%.

7. Insulate your water pipes.

It's easy and inexpensive to insulate your water pipes with pre-slit foam pipe insulation. You'll get hot water faster plus avoid wasting water while it heats up.

8. Take shorter showers.

One way to cut down on water use is to turn off the shower after soaping up, then turn it back on to rinse. A four-minute shower uses approximately 20 to 40 gallons of water.

9. Turn off the water after you wet your toothbrush

There is no need to keep the water running while brushing your teeth. Just wet your brush and fill a glass for mouth rinsing.

10. Rinse your razor in the sink

Fill the sink with a few inches of warm water. This will rinse your razor just as well as running water, with far less waste of water.

11. Use your dishwasher and clothes washer for only full loads

Automatic dishwashers and clothes washers should be fully loaded for optimum water conservation. Most makers of dishwashing soap recommend not pre-rinsing dishes which is a big water savings.

With clothes washers, avoid the permanent press cycle, which uses an added 20 liters (5 gallons) for the extra rinse. For partial loads, adjust water levels to match the size of the load. Replace old clothes washers. New Energy Star rated washers use 35 - 50% less water and 50% less energy per load. If you're in the market for a new clothes washer, consider buying a water-saving frontload washer.

12. Minimize use of kitchen sink garbage disposal units

In-sink 'garburators' require lots of water to operate properly, and also add considerably to the volume of solids in a septic tank which can lead to maintenance problems. Start a compost pile as an alternate method of disposing food waste.

13. When washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing

If you have a double-basin, fill one with soapy water and one with rinse water. If you have a single-basin sink, gather washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them with a spray device or a panful of hot water. Dual-swivel aerators are available to make this easier. If using a dishwasher, there is usually no need to pre-rinse the dishes.

14. Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables

Just rinse them in a stoppered sink or a pan of clean water. Use a dual-setting aerator.

15. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the fridge.

Running tap water to cool it off for drinking water is wasteful. Store drinking water in the fridge in a safe drinking bottle. If you are filling water bottles to bring along on outdoor hikes, consider buying a LifeStraw personal water filter which enables users to drink water safely from rivers or lakes or any available body of water.

Water conservation in the yard and garden...

16. Plant drought-resistant lawns, shrubs and plants

If you are planting a new lawn, or overseeding an existing lawn, use drought-resistant grasses such as the new "Eco-Lawn".

Many beautiful shrubs and plants thrive with far less watering than other species. Replace herbaceous perennial borders with native plants. Native plants will use less water and be more resistant to local plant diseases. Consider applying the principles of xeri-

scape for a low-maintenance, drought resistant yard.

Plant slopes with plants that will retain water and help reduce runoff. Group plants according to their watering needs.

17. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants

Mulch will slow evaporation of moisture while discouraging weed growth. Adding 2 - 4 inches of organic material such as compost or bark mulch will increase the ability of the soil to retain moisture. Press the mulch down around the dripline of each plant to form a slight depression which will prevent or minimize water runoff.

For information about different mulch materials and their best use, click [here](#).

18. Don't water the gutter

Position your sprinklers so water lands on the lawn or garden, not on paved areas. Also, avoid watering on windy days.

19. Water your lawn only when it needs it

A good way to see if your lawn needs watering is to step on the grass. If it springs back up when you move, it doesn't need water. If it stays flat, the lawn is ready for watering. Letting the grass grow taller (to 3") will also promote water retention in the soil.

Most lawns only need about 1" of water each week. During dry spells,

you can stop watering altogether and the lawn will go brown and dormant. Once cooler weather arrives, the morning dew and rainfall will bring the lawn back to its usual vigor. This may result in a brown summer lawn, but it saves a lot of water.

20. Deep-soak your lawn

When watering the lawn, do it long enough for the moisture to soak down to the roots where it will do the most good. A light sprinkling can evaporate quickly and tends to encourage shallow root systems. Put an empty tuna can on your lawn - when it's full, you've watered about the right amount. Visit our natural lawn care page for more information.

21. Water during the early parts of the day; avoid watering when it's windy

Early morning is generally better than dusk since it helps prevent the growth of fungus. Early watering, and late watering, also reduce water loss to evaporation. Watering early in the day is also the best defence against slugs and other garden pests. Try not to water when it's windy - wind can blow sprinklers off target and speed evaporation.

22. Add organic matter and use efficient watering systems for shrubs, flower beds and lawns

Adding organic material to your soil will help increase its absorption and water retention. Areas which are already planted can be 'top dressed' with compost or organic matter.

You can greatly reduce the amount of water used for shrubs, beds and lawns by:

- the strategic placement of soaker hoses
- installing a rain barrel water catchment system
- installing a simple drip-irrigation system.

Avoid over-watering plants and shrubs, as this can actually diminish plant health and cause yellowing of the leaves.

When hand watering, use a variable spray nozzle for targeted watering

23. Don't run the hose while washing your car

Clean the car using a pail of soapy water. Use the hose only for rinsing - this simple practice can save as much as 150 gallons when washing a car. Use a spray nozzle when rinsing for more efficient use of water. Better yet, use a waterless car washing system; there are several brands, such as EcoTouch, which are now on the market.

24. Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks

25. Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets and couplings

Leaks outside the house may not seem as bad since they're not as visible. But they can be just as wasteful as leaks indoors. Check frequently to keep them drip-free. Use hose washers at spigots and hose connections to eliminate leaks.

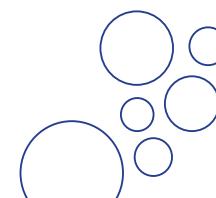


Conservation: The Path Forward

Even though we received more rain this year, California is still facing a drought. We must all continue to conserve our most precious natural resource. Cal Water is doing our part to protect our water supply, and we are here to help you do the same. For more information, visit calwater.com/conservation.



Quality. Service. Value.®



One Less Spark, One Less Wildfire

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that 95% of all wildfires are caused by people? You can help prevent them by ensuring your campfire or debris burn pile is completely extinguished, or keeping your vehicle well maintained to prevent sparks. Following just a few simple steps makes a world of difference when it comes to prevention. The California Wildland Fire Coordinating Group offers a wealth of information on how you can help. The following is a glance of what you'll find at <http://www.preventwildfireca.org>

DEBRIS BURNING

First, obtain any burn permits that may be required. In many areas, homeowners may be required to get a burn permit from your local fire station and local air district. After obtaining any necessary permits, ensure that burning is not currently restricted in your area.

WHAT CAN BE BURNED?

Dry, natural vegetation, grown on the property can still be burned outdoors in open piles, unless prohibited by local ordinances. No household trash or garbage can be burned outdoors at residences.

WHEN CAN YOU BURN?

It must be a permissive burn day, burn day status is determined by Butte County Air Quality Management District for all areas of Butte County, call 530-332-9407 or toll free 1-855-332-9407. A BC Air Quality Management Permit is not required for residential burning.

To learn more, www.buttecounty.net/fire/Prevention/BurningRegulations

In an emergency, dial 9-1-1 Arson Hotline: 800-468-4408



PRACTICING VEHICLE SAFETY
Proper Vehicle Use to Prevent Wildfire

MOTORISTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY OF THE WILDFIRES SPARKED ALONG OUR ROADWAYS. NEARLY ALL THESE FIRE STARTS COULD BE PREVENTED BY FOLLOWING THESE SAFETY RULES:

SECURE CHAINS
PRACTICE SAFE TOWING. DRAGGING CHAINS THROW SPARKS. USE APPROPRIATE SAFETY PINS AND HITCH BALL TO SECURE CHAINS.

NO DRAGGING PARTS
MAKE SURE YOUR VEHICLE IS PROPERLY MAINTAINED, WITH NOTHING DRAGGING ON THE GROUND.

CHECK TIRE PRESSURE
MAINTAIN PROPER TIRE PRESSURE. DRIVING ON EXPOSED WHEEL RIMS WILL THROW SPARKS.

PROPERLY MAINTAIN BRAKES
BRAKES WORN TOO THIN MAY CAUSE METAL TO METAL CONTACT, WHICH CAN CAUSE A SPARK.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A PRINT-READY CAMPFIRE PERMIT VISIT:
PREVENTWILDFIRECA.ORG
#PREVENTWILDFIRE #ONELESSSPARK

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE CALIFORNIA WILDLAND FIRE COORDINATING GROUP (CWCG)

Tips for Safe Home Grilling

Millions of grilling enthusiasts take to their backyards each year to cook delicious foods over an open flame. Grilling is embedded in the history of many cultures, and to this day many people feel nothing beats the savory flavor characteristic of grilled meats, poultry, seafood, and vegetables. Although many people safely enjoy outdoor barbecues every day, accidents can happen. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, roughly 6,000 grill fires take place on residential property every year in the United States alone. Many grilling accidents can be prevented with some safety precautions and a little common sense.

When grilling, place the grill in a safe location. Grills should be at least 10 feet away from the house when they are in use. Also, keep the grill away from wooden overhangs or other structures attached to the house, such as garages and porches.

Before using a gas grill, inspect it to make sure there are no gas leaks. Ensure hoses are properly connected and that the grill looks in good repair.

Use propane and charcoal grills outdoors only. Never bring such grills into your house, even if it seems like there is ample

ventilation. Potentially fatal carbon monoxide can build up quickly.

Keep children and pets away from the grill area. Grills can be knocked over easily, and kids and pets may burn themselves if they bump into a hot grill. Clean the grill regularly. Grease and fat buildup forms in the tray below the grill and can be quite flammable. By brushing off the grates after each use and periodically removing food and grease buildup, you can prevent flare-ups that may ignite the grill.

Always tend the grill while cooking. Walking away for even a minute may lead to accidents.

Store unused propane tanks upright at all times to prevent leakage. Keep them outdoors and beyond the reach of children. Never smoke near propane cylinders and never move a lit grill.

Keep a fire extinguisher handy in the event of a flare-up. A hose may not prove effective on a grease fire.

It's also important to emphasize food safety when grilling. Invest in a food thermometer so you can test the internal temperature of foods and prevent foodborne illnesses. Grilling is a great and flavorful way to cook. But safety must remain a priority when grilling.

••• DROUGHT TIPS •••

HOW TO HELP FRUIT TREES BARELY SURVIVE

When in drought, water trees just barely

Trees are an investment of time, money and water. If you let the trees die this year, you won't have fruit and beauty for years to come. Yet, during a drought you should water just enough to keep the tree alive. Here's some advice from the University of California Garden Web.

Ornamental trees: One or two deep waterings with a garden hose several weeks apart in spring and summer will suffice if roots are deep. Leaves will drop or wilt, but the trees should survive.

Fruit and nut trees: The early season watering will keep trees alive, but fruit production will decrease. If you expect a good harvest, these trees need water in the root zones from bloom until harvest.

For more drought info. from University of California: <http://goo.gl/T66JkL>

LAWNS IN DROUGHT

If you keep your lawn, keep drought in mind

Replacing lawn with drought-tolerant plants has been at the top of nearly every drought-saving fact sheet. However, we don't see very many sand meditation gardens in people's front yards.

Most people turned off their sprinklers in winter when grass needs almost no water, and a little bit of rainwater goes a long way.

Grow deep, grow proud: The California Urban Water Conservation Council, <http://goo.gl/H9qBTG>, recommends deep, infrequent watering to establish deep roots in your lawn.

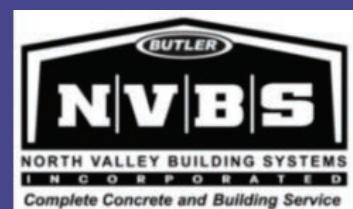
Mow high, rake less: Trim off only the top third of the grass and leave the clipping strewn around the yard. The grass incorporates back into the soil. Also, fertilize less so you aren't encouraging more growth.

Water at night: When the lawn is very thirsty, remember to water early in the morning or at night.

More Expertise for Agricultural Facility Construction.



Whether you need to build a nut processing plant or a personal shop, we're ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work. As your local Butler Builder®, we offer solutions that combine superior performance, long-lasting roof and wall finishes and flexible interior configurations for unmatched functionality and productivity. What can we build for you?



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