



PRESS RELEASE

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OR3 LAUNCHES PRESCRIBED BURN WEBSITE, CRUZAWARE ALERTS

Beneficial fires can help keep landscapes healthy and prevent the spread of larger wildfires, but they also can cause concern among residents who are unaware that prescribed burns are happening.

The goal of a prescribed fire is to reduce catastrophic wildfire potential by reducing hazardous ladder fuels from the forest understory, restoring natural ecosystems, clearing downed or dead trees and debris, and diversifying wildlife habitats. To help inform the public about the purpose and timing of local prescribed burns, the Santa Cruz County Office of Response, Recovery & Resilience (OR3) has a helpful resource for residents.

Visit <https://www.santacruzcountyca.gov/OR3/OR3PrescribedFireInformation.aspx> to learn more about the science behind prescribed burns and the timing of any upcoming prescribed burns.

OR3 has also added the ability to receive prescribed burn notifications to the County's CruzAware alert and warning system. Residents are encouraged to sign up or sign in to their existing CruzAware account to choose to receive prescribed burn notices via email through CruzAware. Visit <https://cruzaware.org> for more information.

Cal Fire and local land management agencies such as California State Parks both incorporate prescribed burns as part of their management practices. Historically, indigenous caretakers of the land also used fire to help renew natural resources, cultivate habitat and protect against larger fires.