

FIRE PLAN FOR CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICE CONTRACTS

1. SCOPE:

The provisions set forth below outline the responsibility for fire prevention and suppression activities and establish a suppression plan for fires within the contract area. The contractor is responsible for safe operations at all times during the contract period. The provisions set forth below specify conditions under which contract activities will be modified, curtailed, or shut down.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES:

A. Contractor

- (1) Shall abide by the requirements of this Fire Plan.
- (2) Shall take all steps necessary to prevent his/her employees, subcontractors and their employees from setting fires not required in completion of the contract, shall be responsible for preventing the escape of fires set directly or indirectly as a result of contract operations, and shall extinguish all such fires which may escape.
- (3) Shall permit and assist in periodic testing and inspection of required fire equipment. Contractor shall certify compliance with specific fire precautionary measures in the fire plan, before beginning operations during Fire Precautionary Period and shall update such certification when operations change.
- (4) In addition to the requirements in this Fire Plan, the Contractor shall comply with all applicable laws of the State of California. In particular, see applicable California Public Resource Codes.
- (5) Shall monitor weather and local fire danger ratings to inform decisions on operations. Contractors are required to have on site a handheld weather station unit. During high temperatures and lowering humidity, humidity levels will have hourly readings taken.

3. OPERATIONS DURING CALFIRE DECLARED FIRE SEASON

Relative Humidity Restrictions

If at any point during the day, the relative humidity drops to **20% or** lower, the following requirements apply:

- **Prohibited Activities:**
Use of chainsaws, hot saws, bar saws, chippers, masticators, cable yarding, and site preparation activities such as ripping, clearing and mastication are prohibited. Welding, blasting, and use of cutting torches is prohibited. Walking of tracked equipment off road is prohibited except when the traveled surface has been sprayed with water, such as from a water truck, behind or in front of the mobilized equipment.
- **Allowed Activities:**
Hauling, piling, equipment servicing, and dust abatement activities may be conducted. Chipping of slash is allowed on roads or cleared landing.

4. RED FLAG CONDITIONS

Red flag conditions are communicated through CALFIRE, US Forest Service, public service radio announcements, fire weather websites, Watch Duty, or other app.

<https://www.weather.gov/wrh/fire?wfo=mfr>

Special contractor operating procedures are imposed during forecasted Red Flag Conditions.

Prohibited Activities:

Use of chainsaws, hot saws, bar saws, chippers, masticators, cable yarding, and site preparation activities such as ripping, clearing and mastication are prohibited. Welding, blasting, and use of cutting torches is prohibited. Walking of tracked equipment is prohibited except when the traveled surface has been sprayed with water, such as from a water truck, behind or in front of the mobilized equipment.

Allowed Activities:

Hauling, piling, equipment servicing, and dust abatement activities may be conducted. Chipping of slash is allowed on roads or cleared landing.

5. **FIRE WATCH CONDITIONS**

Fire watch conditions are communicated through CALFIRE, US Forest Service, public service radio announcements, fire weather websites, Watch Duty, or other apps. Special contractor operating procedures are imposed during forecasted Fire Watch Conditions. Conditions will be monitored to changing humidity and wind speeds. If humidity drops below 20%, operations will be suspended. Operations will operate between the hours of 5am-1pm.

6. **TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT:**

The Contractor shall comply with the following requirements during the fire precautionary period, as defined by unit administering contracts:

The Fire Precautionary Period is set by the State of California which is April 1 through December 1 of any year.

A. Fire Tools and Equipment: Contractor shall meet minimum requirements of Section 4428 of the California Public Resources Code (C.P.R.C.). All required fire tools shall be maintained in suitable and serviceable condition for fire fighting purposes.

Trucks, tractors, masticators, pickups, and other similar mobile equipment shall be equipped with and carry at all times a size 0 or larger shovel with an overall length of not less than 46 inches and a 2-1/2 pound axe or larger with an overall length of not less than 28 inches.

B. Fire Extinguishers: Contractor shall equip each internal combustion equipment with a fire extinguisher for oil and grease fires (4-A:60-B:C). All Fire Extinguishers shall be mounted, readily accessible, properly maintained and fully charged.

C. Spark Arresters and Mufflers: Contractor shall equip each operating tractor and any other internal combustion engine with a spark arrester, except for motor vehicles equipped with a maintained muffler as defined in C.P.R.C. Section 4442 or tractors with exhaust-operated turbochargers. Spark Arresters shall be a model tested and approved as shown in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Spark Arrester Guide, Volumes 1 and 2, and shall be maintained in good operating condition. Every motor vehicle subject to registration shall at all times be equipped with an adequate exhaust system meeting the requirements of the California Vehicle Code.

D. Power Saws: Each power saw shall be equipped with a spark arrester approved according to C.P.R.C. Section 4442 or 4443 and shall be maintained in effective working order. An Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved fire extinguisher containing a minimum 14 ounces of fire retardant shall be kept with each operating power saw. In addition, a size 0 or larger shovel with an overall length of

not less than 38 inches shall be kept with each gas can but not more than 300 feet from each power saw when used off cleared landing areas.

E. **Masticators:** When masticators are used during the declared fire season, in addition to provisions of the California Forest Practice Rules, the contractor shall comply with the following provisions:

- The patrol for operations utilizing masticators must inspect operating areas on foot. The patrol vehicle shall be parked within or as closely as possible to the area being patrolled and the vehicle shall be equipped to fight fire with the following 1) a serviceable 5 gallon backpack pump filled with water, 2) a shovel or McLeod fire tool, 3) either a double bit ax or a serviceable chainsaw with a minimum 20 inch bar, and 4) communications equipment capable of summoning additional fire suppression resources or contacting the agency responsible for fire suppression. The patrol shall carry a round point shovel with an overall length of at least 46 inches during the foot patrol.
- The patrol for the areas where masticators are being used will inspect all areas that day operated on by masticators. The inspection shall occur for at least two hours after cessation of masticator operations.
- The patrol will conduct inspection using an approach capable of detecting small smoldering fires.
- An operable water tank and pumper, and a fire tool box must be available on the active contract area.
- The masticator must be equipped at a minimum with a shovel, axe, and a 10 lb capacity fire extinguisher with a UL/ANSI 711 rating 4-A:80-B:C.
- During the declared Fire Season, masticator contractors will be required to monitor the fire weather forecast closest to the active contract areas.
- On-site weather conditions will be monitored every two hours during the morning hours and every hour during the afternoon. Relative humidity will be measured and recorded.
- If the relative humidity drops to 20% or lower, operations will immediately be suspended.
- If relative humidity is between 21-25%, masticator operators may only proceed if the contractor provides a walking fire patrol behind the masticator. The fire patrol must be equipped with a shovel and be capable of detecting small, smoldering fires.
- No use of masticators may occur under Red Flag Conditions.

F. **Tank Truck or Trailer:** Contractor shall provide a **water tank or trailer** on or in proximity to contract area during the Contractor's operations hereunder during Fire Precautionary Period. A tank truck or trailer shall be on or immediately adjacent to the project area.

The tank shall contain at least 300 gallons of water available for fire suppression. Ample power and hitch shall be readily available for promptly and safely moving the tank over roads to service the contract area.

7. **GENERAL**

- A. **State Law:** In addition to the requirements in this Fire Plan, the Contractor shall comply with all applicable laws of the State of California. In particular, see **California Public Resource Codes**.
- B. **Smoking:** Smoking shall not be permitted during fire season, except in a barren area or in an area cleared to mineral soil at least three feet in diameter. The Contractor shall sign designated smoking areas. Contractor shall post signs regarding smoking and fire rules in conspicuous places for all employees to see. Contractor's supervisory personnel shall require compliance with these rules. Under no circumstances shall smoking be permitted during fire season while employees are operating light or heavy equipment or walking or working in grass and woodlands.
- C. **Storage and Parking Areas.** Equipment service areas, parking areas, and gas and oil storage areas shall be cleared of all flammable material for a radius of at least 10 feet unless otherwise specified by local administrative unit. Small mobile or stationary internal combustion engine sites shall be cleared of flammable material for a slope distance of at least 10 feet from such engine.

- F. **Reporting Fires:** As soon as feasible but no later than 15 minutes after initial discovery, Contractor shall notify 911 emergency services of any fires on Contract Area or along roads used by Contractor. Contractor's employees shall report all fires as soon as possible. Fires will be reported to the SVRCD Project Manager after emergency agencies are informed and suppression is initiated.

When reporting a fire, provide the following information:

- Your Name
- Call back telephone number
- Project Name
- Location: Legal description (Township, Range, Section); and Descriptive location (Reference point)
- Fire Information: Including Acres, Rate of Spread and Wind Conditions.