



PRESS RELEASE

Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team

For Immediate Release

Lake Tahoe prescribed fire operations may continue over next two weeks

Contact: USDA Forest Service, Lisa Herron 530-721-3898 or lisa.herron@usda.gov

LAKE TAHOE, Calif./Nev., Oct. 28, 2022 – Under the coordination of the Tahoe Fire & Fuels Team (TFFT), the California Tahoe Conservancy and Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District may continue prescribed fire operations over the next two weeks, conditions and weather permitting. Smoke will be present. A map with project details is available for viewing at [Tahoe Living With Fire](#).

Prescribed fires are an important tool used by land managers to help protect communities by removing excess vegetation (fuels) that can feed wildland fires. Burning excess vegetation also benefits forest health by making room for new growth which provides forage for wildlife, recycles nutrients back into the soil and helps reduce the spread of insects and disease in forests.

Fall and winter typically bring cooler temperatures and precipitation, which are ideal for conducting prescribed fires. Each operation follows a specialized burn plan, which considers temperature, humidity, wind, vegetation moisture, and smoke dispersal conditions. All this information is used to decide when and where to burn.

Prescribed fire managers use different methods to reintroduce low-intensity fire into forests including pile, broadcast, and understory burning. Pile burning involves burning slash piles that are constructed by hand or mechanical equipment. Broadcast and understory burning use low-intensity fire across the ground to remove fuels under specific environmental conditions with fire confined to a predetermined area. Prescribed fires are meant to mimic naturally occurring fire, which is an essential part of many different ecosystems, and produces fire behavior and fire characteristics required to attain resource management objectives.

Smoke from prescribed fire operations is normal and may continue for several days after an ignition depending on the project size, conditions, and weather. Prescribed fire smoke is generally less intense and of much shorter duration than smoke produced by unwanted wildfires. "If prescribed fire smoke were equivalent to lighting a match, then wildfire smoke would be like lighting a bonfire," said Washoe County Air Quality Specialist, Brendan Schneider.

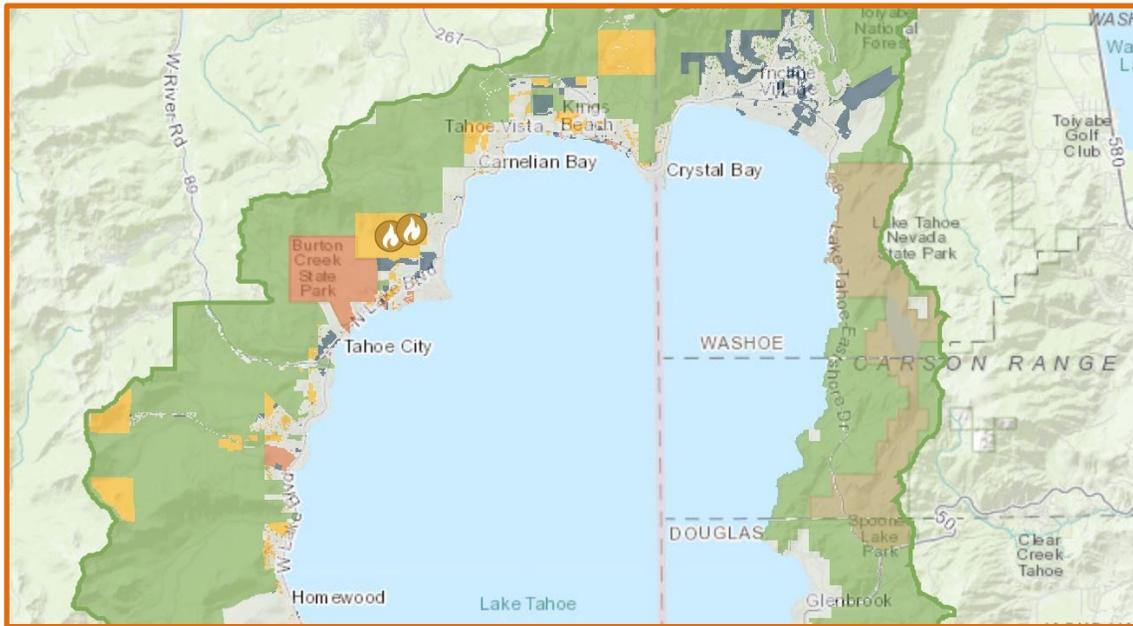
Prior to prescribed fire ignition, there is close coordination with local and state air quality agencies to monitor weather for favorable conditions that can disperse smoke. Crews conduct test burns before igniting larger areas to verify how well the vegetation is consumed along with how the smoke rises and

disperses before proceeding. Signs are posted on roadways in areas affected by prescribed fire operations, email notifications are sent to the prescribed fire notification list, and the local fire information line at 530-543-2816 is updated. The TFFT gives as much advance notice as possible before burning, but some operations may be conducted on short notice due to the small window of opportunity for implementing these projects.

To be added to the prescribed fire notification list, send an email request to sm.fs.paltbmu@usda.gov.

Visit, [Tahoe Living With Fire](#) to get prepared, get informed, and get involved.

###



About the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team

The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) consists of representatives of Tahoe Basin fire agencies, CAL FIRE, Nevada Division of Forestry and related state agencies, University of California and Nevada Cooperative Extensions, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, the USDA Forest Service, conservation districts from both states, the California Tahoe Conservancy and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board. Our Mission is to protect lives, property and the environment within the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuels reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a Fire Adapted Community.

For more information, visit <https://tahoe.livingwithfire.info/about/>.