

OUTSIDE BURNING

The following information is to allow PFD members guidance on how to handle outdoor burning responses.

- A. The response to an illegal burn situation must be treated with extreme caution while driving emergency. The recommendation is to respond non-emergent, however information via the dispatcher may require emergent response. The senior officer should query the dispatcher for further information.
- B. The senior officer should use discretion in extinguishing the fire. If there is no significant danger to spread (wind, size, location). The senior officer is to directly communicate with the responsible individual to request they stop burning.
 - 1. It may not be necessary to “order” them to stop burning. An example is Pine Oak Forest where citizens use the ditch to burn leaves and pine needles. The focus is on fire spread conditions.
 - 2. If the smoke is causing concern from neighbors, then the PFD will advise the responsible person and extinguish the fire to eliminate the smoke.
 - 3. Handling these situations should be customer focused to prevent anger and distrust of the fire department. The fire department is neither the police nor the pollution control department.
 - 4. The senior officer may contact a chief for unusual conditions that may warrant chief response for direct discussions with the responsible person.
- C. Fireworks are a separate issue and will be addressed (generally by the county) on a case-by-case basis during the given season. Dry conditions may require voluntary or outright bans on the use of certain types or all fireworks.