



**City of Morro Bay Fire Department
715 Harbor Street
Morro Bay, California 93442**

Media Contact:

Steven C. Knuckles, Fire Chief
Morro Bay Fire Department
(805) 772-6242, (805) 440-4544
sknuckles@morro-bay.ca.us

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Annual Fuel Modification on Black Hill, Morro Bay

MORRO BAY, Calif., December 13, 2013 –

The California Department of Parks and Recreation will be clearing dead vegetation and trees on Black Hill and Upper State Park Road starting December 16, 2013 and ending December 20, 2013. The majority of the clearing will occur adjacent to homes on La Loma Street, Balboa Street, Kings Street, Fairview Street, and the Blue Heron Mobile Home Park. This project has been a multi-year approach to reduce the amount of ignition material and provide a buffer for homes in our Wildland Urban Interface. Most of the dead vegetation has been removed creating multiple piles that will be removed by controlled burning and an Air Curtain Burner. Morro Bay Fire Chief Steve Knuckles states, "Air Curtain Burners are designed principally as a pollution control device. The primary objective of an air curtain machine is to reduce the particulate matter and smoke from burning dead vegetation."

Both Morro Bay Fire Department and San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control issued permits for this task. The combination of both permits states no fires will be set before sunrise or four hours before sunset. A designated person will conduct smoke monitoring during the active burn to evaluate any smoke impacts to our community. The area residents will be notified with signage placed in visible locations. The Morro Bay Fire Department will be monitoring the burning operation and has the right to halt any operation that may become a hazardous situation.

The Morro Bay Fire Department encourages a fire safe holiday season and would like to ask when you choose a Christmas tree, please choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched. After the holiday season, please get rid of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home, garage, or placed outside against the house.

About the Morro Bay Fire Department

The Morro Bay Fire Department is a multi-hazard emergency response agency protecting life, property and the environment from the effects of fire, hazardous materials, medical and other life safety emergencies. The department provides firefighter/paramedic coverage to the City of Morro Bay with personnel on duty 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.