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# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



## Lassen-Modoc Unit

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**RELEASE DATE:** November 7, 2016

### **CAL FIRE Lassen-Modoc Unit Transitions Out of Fire Season**

**Susanville** – Recent rains and cooler temperatures across the region have lowered the threat of wildfires allowing CAL FIRE’s Lassen-Modoc Unit to transition out of fire season effective Monday, November 14, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. in Lassen, Modoc and Plumas Counties. This means you may now burn dooryard debris without a burn permit. Though permits are not required, you must still contact your local air pollution district to ensure it is a permissive burn day.

CAL FIRE will continue to monitor weather conditions closely and has the ability to increase staffing should the weather conditions change. CAL FIRE personnel and equipment assigned to the Lassen-Modoc Unit are available to support wildfires and other emergencies throughout the State.

Unit Chief Don Gordon wishes to extend his appreciation to those residents of Lassen, Modoc and Plumas counties who worked so diligently this summer to be fire safe and encourages families to continue in this manner throughout the winter months.

This is the time of year we see an increase in flue fires. Most flue fires are caused by creosote buildup. Creosote is produced naturally when wood is burned. It adheres to the interior surface of a flue, and in time, produces enough buildup to become a fire hazard.

Having the flue inspected annually by a qualified chimney sweep is a wise investment. They have the equipment and expertise to remove built up creosote and to ensure your fireplace or woodstove is working properly. Other things you can do to lessen the buildup of creosote and soot include:

- Build a small but very hot fire in the beginning. This creates a good updraft through the flue so that less buildup occurs.
- Burn wood that is seasoned and dry: wet wood produces more soot and creosote buildup.
- Using paper to start a fire is not a problem; however avoid burning large amounts of paper and cardboard: a woodstove/fireplace is not meant to burn trash.
- Avoid burning wood that has high pitch content. Pitch produces large amounts of creosote as it burns.

If a fire does develop, don't panic. Vacate the premises and call 9-1-1.

For more information on making your home fire safe, visit [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov).

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