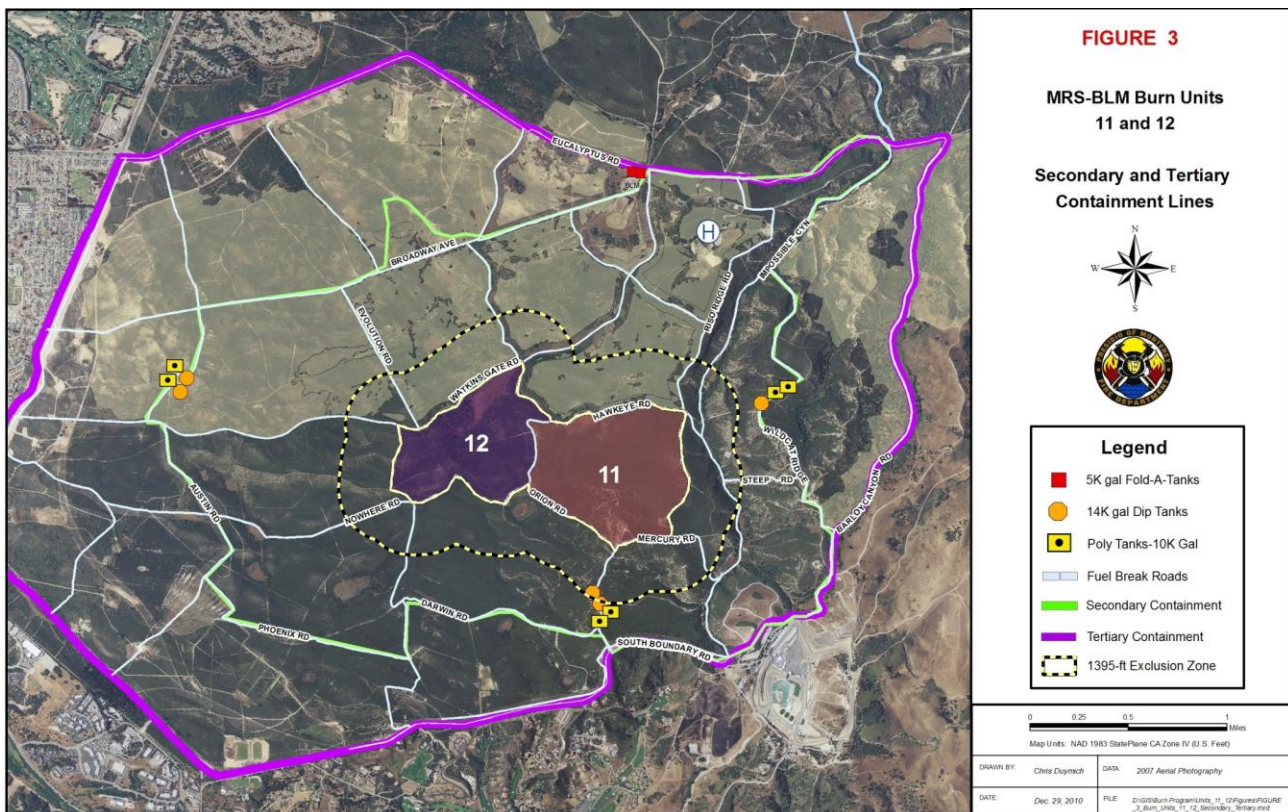


Frequently Asked Questions About the Fort Ord Prescribed Burns

2011



This Year's Prescribed Burn Units:

Burn Unit 11 : 273 Acres

Burn Unit 12: 203 Acres

Last Year's (2010) Prescribed Burns:

Burn Unit 21: 110 Acres October 7, 2010

Burn Unit 15: 167 Acres October 8, 2010

WHY IS THE ARMY CONDUCTING PRESCRIBED BURNS?

To remove heavy vegetation so that, after the fire is completed, cleanup workers can then safely enter former firing ranges and remove munitions and explosives of concern.

ISN'T THERE ANY WAY TO REMOVE THE VEGETATION WITHOUT PRESCRIBED BURNS?

No. Because of munitions and explosives of concern on the surface, it would be impractical to cut vegetation on a large scale. The Army has employed cutting in limited areas with safety precautions. For example, in limited areas we are cutting fuel breaks that are 200 feet wide.

WHEN WILL THE FIRE OCCUR?

If no date has been fixed: Whenever during burn season (July 1 – December 31) the right weather conditions will occur that will minimize smoke.

- For Burn Units 11 and 12, this is most likely to be in the Fall, because that is when these weather conditions are most likely to occur.

For daily updates, call the hot line at (831) 242-7983 or 1-800-852-9699 (toll-free number), or check on the web page at www.fortordcleanup.com.

WILL THE FIRE OCCUR ON A WEEKDAY OR ON A WEEKEND?

It could occur on either a weekday or a weekend, depending on weather conditions. The most important consideration is to light the fire on a day – weekday or weekend – when there will be the smallest amount of smoke impacting the community.

HOW WILL PEOPLE BE NOTIFIED WHEN THE PRESCRIBED BURN WILL OCCUR?

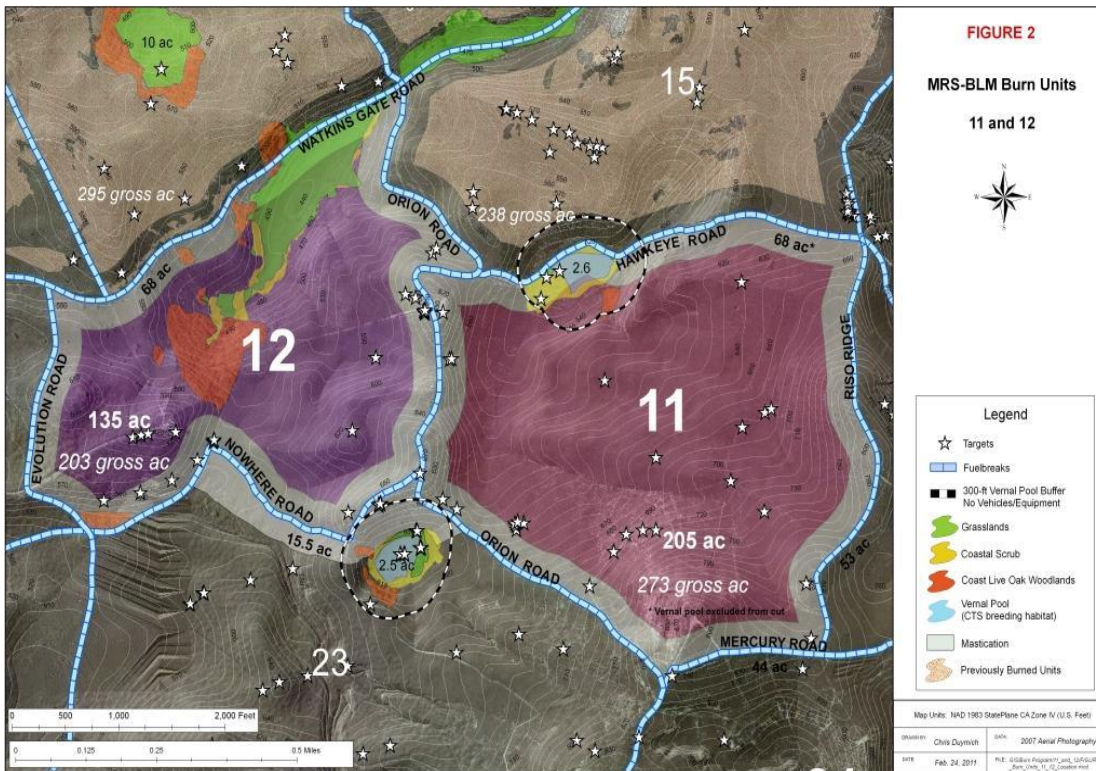
People who complete the application for the direct notification program will be put on a notification list (email list server and/or auto dialer). The Army will contact them when decision to mobilize is made, using the phone number, e-mail, or address provided on their application. The Army will only make one attempt to contact people.

The Army will issue press releases and public service announcements to the media. Once this notification has occurred, the individual is responsible to check in daily on the hotline (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699 or check the web site (www.FortOrdCleanup.com) to get daily updates.

The final decision to go ahead with a burn, or postpone it, is likely to be made first thing in the morning, after the wind conditions are known. If the decision to conduct a prescribed burn is made, each person enrolled in the direct notification program will be notified.

WHERE WILL THE FIRE BE?

Burn Units 11 and 12 are located near the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Headquarters have been selected as burn locations should the weather conditions required for these areas be met during the 2011 burn season.



HOW LARGE IS THE AREA THAT WILL BE BURNED?

This Year's Proposed Prescribed Burns:

- Burn Unit 11: 198 acres (net)
- Burn Unit 12: 129 acres (net)

Last Year's (2010) Prescribed Burns:

- Burn Unit 15: 110 acres October 7, 2010
- Burn Unit 21: 167 acres October 8, 2010

WHERE IS THE NEAREST RESIDENTIAL AREA AND SCHOOL?

UNITS 11 and 12

WHERE IS THE NEAREST RESIDENTIAL AREA AND SCHOOL?

UNITS 11 and 12

- **Nearest School:** *Fitch Park School and Chartwell School (~ 2 miles NW)*
- **Nearest Residential Area:** *Fitch Park Military Community: (~ 1.5 miles NW)*
- **Neighboring Areas:** *Distance calculations based on closest town boundary to closest burn site boundary. Distances were calculated via GIS and are considered approximate.*

Neighboring Area	Approximate Distance to MRS-BLM Units 11 and 12 burn areas
Seaside	2 miles W
Highway 68 Corridor	1.5 miles S
Ingham School (off San Benancio)	3 Miles SE
Del Rey Oaks	2 miles SW
Marina	3 miles N
Mazda Raceway - Laguna Seca	0.5 miles S
Monterey Peninsula Airport	2.4 miles SW
Monterey	1.5 miles SW
Salinas	6 miles NE
Spreckels	8 miles E
Salinas Valley (down to King City)	4 –45 miles NE to SE

WILL THE SMOKE CONTAIN DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES?

The Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control have studied this question carefully. The agencies have concluded that substances in the smoke from this fire will not be significantly different than smoke from a prescribed burn anywhere else with similar vegetation. The technical documents that summarize these studies are available at www.FortOrdCleanup.com. Go to the Prescribed Burn section.

WERE THESE STUDIES BASED ON ACTUAL MEASUREMENTS?

Yes. Members of the community expressed concern that smoke from a fire at the former Fort Ord would contain toxic substances that would pose a health risk to the community. Smoke from the 2003 and 2006 prescribed burns have been sampled and determined to be no different from other prescribed burns in similar vegetation. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a federal health agency, concluded that the effect of the prescribed burn was “no apparent public health hazard,” and no adverse health effects are expected from exposure to smoke. Short term exposure to the smoke could cause minor respiratory and eye irritation in sensitive individuals, but these effects would have been temporary and would have dissipated shortly after exposures ended. ATSDR recommended that people with respiratory illnesses or are especially sensitive to smoke should stay indoors or temporarily leave the area during burn events.

This study is available at www.FortOrdCleanup.com. Go to the Prescribed Burn section. Or you can download a copy at www.FortOrdcleanup.com. The link to this report is:

<http://www.fortordcleanup.com/adminrec/arsearchresultsdocs.asp?id=AR-OE-0345&no=OE-0345>.

WILL THE FIRE RELEASE RADIOACTIVITY INTO THE AIR?

No. No weapons containing radioactive materials were ever fired on the ranges at Fort Ord.

WERE CHEMICAL WEAPONS USED AT FORT ORD?

No.

WILL THE PUBLIC BE EXPOSED TO DANGEROUS LEVELS OF POISON OAK IN THE AIR?

Poison oak occurs primarily within coast live oak woodlands and is much less persistent in the extensive Central Maritime Chaparral habitat areas that is the primary target of prescribed burns. In fact, poison oak is found in less than 0.05% of the Impact Area. Small amounts of poison oak could occur in the smoke. However, fires have occurred at Fort Ord for many decades and people in the community have not reported problems with poison oak.

COULD ANY HOMES BE HIT BY FLYING FRAGMENTS WHEN ORDNANCE OR EXPLOSIVES ARE DETONATED DURING THE FIRE?

The Army has calculated the maximum distance that any fragments could fly, using health-protective assumptions.

For Burn Units 11 and 12 it is a 81mm high explosive (HE) M362A1 series projectile as the Munitions with the Greatest Fragmentation Distance (MGFD). The maximum safety distance is 1,395 feet

There are no private or public buildings, public roads or trails inside this very conservative estimate.

HOW LONG WILL SMOKE BE IN THE AIR?

The fire is planned to last one day, at most, two days. Smoke could be in the air 1-2 days longer. If appropriate weather conditions continue, there may be second prescribed burn in this area. This is most likely for BLM burn units 11 and 12. Typically there are two phases to the smoke for each burn. The first phase lasts about 4 hours following ignition. The second phase, sometimes called the smolder phase, may last from 4 to 24 hours. Smoke is generally disbursed in the first 24 hours after ignition.

IS MY HEALTH AT RISK FROM BREATHING SMOKE?

Health experts tell us that the amount of smoke that results from a properly conducted prescribed burn should not pose a health risk to healthy people. If there is any discomfort it should be temporary and minimal. People with existing breathing conditions, such as asthma or emphysema, or existing heart conditions, may want to take reasonable precautions like staying indoors or relocating during the fire.

WHAT PRECAUTIONS CAN SMOKE-SENSITIVE PEOPLE TAKE IF THEY DECIDE TO REMAIN IN THE AREA RATHER THAN RELOCATE?

If people are smoke-sensitive, but choose to remain in the area, they may want to consider the following precautions:

- Listen to public service advisories and be alert for further information
- Stay indoors and keep doors and windows closed
- Use room air cleaners (HEPA filter, not ozone generators)
- Drink plenty of fluids to keep your respiratory membranes moist
- Consider using an over-the-counter nasal moisturizing spray (saline)
- Reduce physical activities when smoke is present
- Stop or cut down on smoking
- When driving, put the air conditioner on recycle mode (if possible)
- Have at least a 5-day supply of prescribed medications on hand

WHY WAS THERE SO MUCH SMOKE FROM PAST FIRES?

Fires in 1997, 1999 and 2003 produced considerable smoke for people near Highway 68 to the east and southeast of Fort Ord. In 2003, Carmel, Pebble Beach, Pacific Grove and Monterey also experienced smoke. The 1997 fire was a prescribed burn that was ignited when atmospheric conditions were not ideal. The 1999 fire was an accidental fire. The 2003 fire was planned to be 500 acres, but it actually burned 1,500 acres. Weather conditions held smoke in rather than allowing it to be dissipated at high altitudes. The 2006, 2008, 2009 and 2010 fires were not as large the others and did not produce much smoke.

The Army is taking extensive precautions to ensure that the fire(s) this year when be conducted under appropriate weather conditions.

WHICH AREAS ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY SMOKE?

If everything goes as planned, no areas will be seriously affected. But things don't always go as planned.

In the 1997, 1999 and 2010 fires, the areas that were most seriously affected were along Highway 68, to the south and southeast of Fort Ord, including Spreckels. Seaside was also affected, although not as much. During the 2003 fire, the 1,500 acres produced smoke that affected the entire Monterey Bay region.

IS ASH FALL HARMFUL?

Ash is not considered a significant health risk as it is too big to be inhaled into the respiratory system.

HOW WILL THE FIRE BE MANAGED?

To make the prescribed burn more manageable the area that will be burned is divided into smaller units surrounded by existing fuel break roads. In fact, three containment lines are established for each burn area. Before the fire, the burn operations team will be certain that fuel breaks around the perimeter are clear of vegetation.

The fire will be managed using helicopters and wildland fire equipment. Infrared technology will be used from a helicopter to allow the burn team to “look through” the smoke and detect fire locations. Any spot fires outside the burn area can be quickly identified and extinguished from the helicopters or wildland fire engines. Additional fire crews will be on site.

WILL PRESCRIBED BURNS DAMAGE THE VEGETATION?

No. In fact, if the brush is cleared by burning, the habitat not only recovers but flourishes. If the brush is cleared by cutting, the habitat does not grow back as healthy or diverse as before.

WILL PRESCRIBED BURNS DAMAGE THE ANIMAL LIFE?

Not significantly and not long-term. Most of the animals will simply leave the area of the fire, and will replenish the area as vegetation begins to grow back.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN ONCE THE FIRE IS OVER?

The Army will locate and remove munitions and explosives of concern on the ground surface of the entire site/burn area. In selected areas, the Army will use detection equipment to locate possible ordnance and explosives below ground. Workers will carefully dig around the ordnance to identify its type, and whether it could still be explosive. Explosive materials will be detonated in place, using additional explosive material that will be attached to the item.

The Fort Ord hotline announces when detonations are likely to occur. Call the hot line at (831) 242-7983 or 1-800-852-9699 (toll-free number).

HOW WILL THE LAND WHERE THE PRESCRIBED BURNS ARE BEING CONDUCTED BE USED AFTER IT IS CLEANED UP?

The land associated with all the proposed burn units will be turned over to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for a habitat reserve and recreation area. These areas will not be developed.

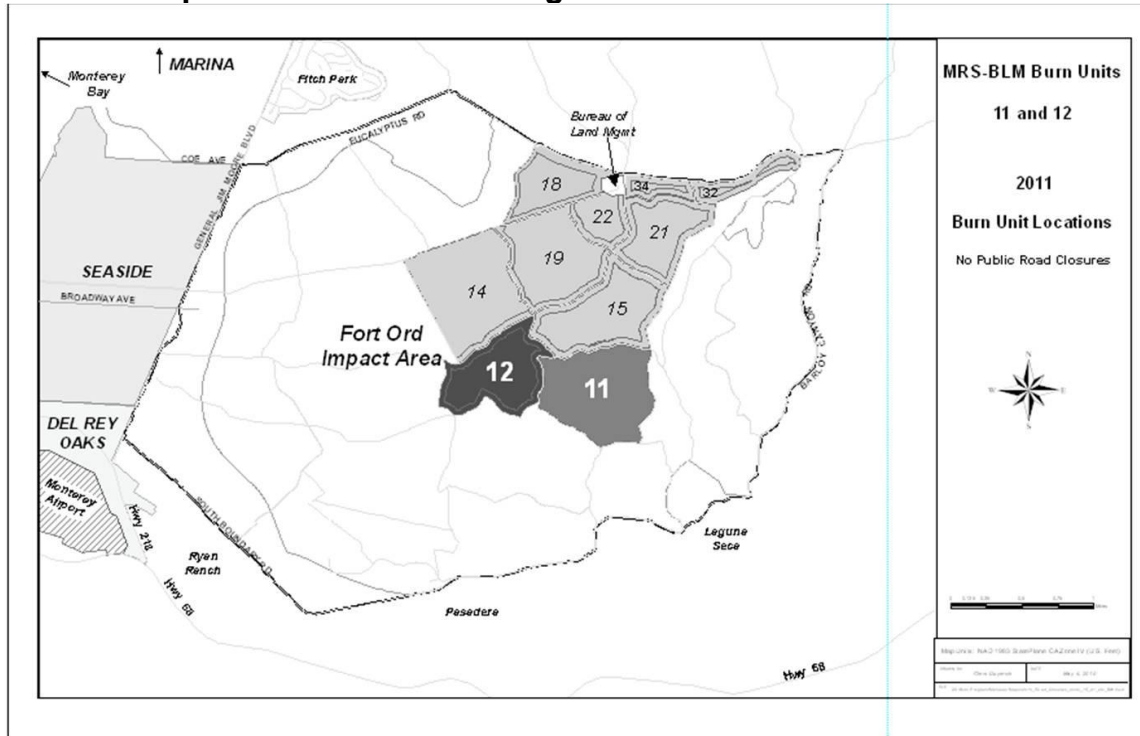
Description of the road closures using landmarks: Burn Units 11 and 12

DURATION: 24 hours prior to ignition until mop-up is complete (1- 3 days)

LOCATION OF CLOSURES:

- Eucalyptus Road will be closed to all traffic (including pedestrians and cyclists) from General Jim Moore Blvd. to Barloy Canyon Rd.
- Parker Flats Rd. will be closed from Parker Flats Cutoff to Eucalyptus Rd.
- All trails leading to Eucalyptus Rd. will be closed to all traffic.

Detailed Map of Road closures using landmarks: Burn Units 11 and 12



WHY IS THE ARMY NOT OFFERING REIMBURSEMENT FOR VOLUNTARY RELOCATION? *The Army has reimbursed people for relocation for previous fires, why is the Army no longer offering it for this fire?*

Army's plans to minimize impacts on the community from smoke during prescribed burns by planning smaller-sized burns and choosing specific weather conditions. In addition, the results of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) health related-study and previous studies on air emissions & monitoring, determined that prescribed burns were not a public health hazard. Based on these two key reasons, the Army is no longer offering reimbursement for voluntary relocation.