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# SANTA CLARA UNIT NEWS RELEASE

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## Cherry Springs VMP

**San Jose, CA** - The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Santa Clara Unit, in cooperation with Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, will be conducting a prescribed burning operation on the Cherry Springs Vegetation Management Project (VMP) in Santa Clara County. The burn project is located within the **Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve, off of Pheasant Rd X Hicks Rd, San Jose, CA 95120.**

The burn is scheduled on **October 24, 2024** from 8:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. with a goal of burning approximately 9 acres total.

All burning is dependent on any restrictions set forth by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and favorable fire weather conditions. The public is advised that multiple fire apparatus and crews will be moving in and around the preserve during the previously mentioned date and times and that smoke may be visible throughout the valley.

The goal of prescribed burning is to limit the chance of large, damaging wildfires through the reduction of fire hazards in the wildland area. It has many benefits for public and fire personnel safety, as well as enhancement of natural resources. These include increased biodiversity, control of noxious weeds, enhanced wildlife habitat, and protection against large damaging wildland fires.

Prescribed burn projects are conducted under specific weather and fuel conditions to minimize any negative impacts.

All CAL FIRE controlled burns are evaluated the day of burn utilizing a Go/ No-Go checklist that is based upon weather and fuel conditions, incident activity, and approval from BAAQMD. If burning conditions become unfavorable for a safe, efficient burn, operations will be immediately suspended.

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