

PUBLIC NOTICE: PRESCRIBED BURN SCHEDULED

Firefighters to conduct controlled burn June 1--3 (3 days of burning) at Besant Hill School (Happy Valley Foundation) in Upper Ojai

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Ventura County Prescribed Burn Association (VCPBA) plans to conduct a prescribed burn at **Besant (Happy Valley Foundation) in Upper Ojai for three days of burning between June 1--6, 2026.**

Prescribed Burn Associations (PBAs) are community based, mutual aid networks that help private landowners put “good fire” back on the land. PBAs across California have increased the capacity for communities to do more prescribed fire for ecological, cultural, and safety reasons.

The objectives for this broadcast burn are to:

- Burn yellow star thistle while in bud to reduce population sizes
- Scarify existing redmaid and *Lupinus bicolor* seeds (native annual seeds) to increase their population sizes.
- Seed fields with other low-growing fire-adapted native annuals.
- Increase native plant population density.
- Lower fire risk by strategically seeding low-growing native annuals
- Provide training opportunities for wildland fire fighters and professional fire practitioners to safely conduct prescribed fire and to get live-fire experience.
- Create some defensible space before the Santa Ana Wind Season in the Fall.

Depending on specific weather conditions that day, residents in the area may see smoke, however fire resources will be on scene to conduct the burn, monitor its progress, and provide oversight of all activities. Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) staff have reviewed the Smoke Management Plans for this burn and provided conditions to minimize smoke impacts to the communities adjacent to the burn. VCAPCD and the Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD) are the agencies permitting this burn; VCFD and numerous other Fire Departments will be on site.

The VCPBA hopes nearby homes and property owners will consider any inconvenience to be an investment in their safety and the safety of their community.

of training and preparation better prepares firefighters and property owners for wildfire season. Please pardon any inconvenience this broadcast burn may cause. For additional information please call VCRCO 805-764-5135 or email: kevin.mason@vcrco.org.

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