

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



CONTACT: Cecile Juliette
Information Officer
(650) 477-0379

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Illegal Firework Starts Grass Fire in San Mateo County

Belmont: On May 14, 2022, around 6:00pm, firefighters responded to a grass fire on Highway 92 at the Cañada Road exit. Winds were estimated at less than 10mph. Firefighters from CAL FIRE/San Mateo County Fire and Consolidated Fire quickly extinguished the fire, keeping it at .5 acre.

The cause was determined to be an illegal firework. (see attached photos)

While firefighters were able to keep this fire small, vegetation in the region is critically dry. Fuel moistures have reached historic lows for this time of year, and setting-off fireworks could have a devastating effect.

CAL FIRE CZU Division Chief Rich Sampson says, "Fireworks are illegal to purchase, possess and use in San Mateo County. Fines can reach \$1000, and those using fireworks, and their guardians can be held liable for any damages connected to the incident. This fire was contained relatively quickly thanks to quick fire suppression. The fire was surrounded by roads, which helped to keep the fire boxed in, and wind conditions were light. But as the weather warms up, and we get closer to the 4th of July, vegetation will continue to dry out. It is concerning that we had a fireworks-related fire this early in the season. This provides further evidence that the vegetation is extremely dry and receptive to fire."

Visit www.fire.ca.gov or www.readyforwildfire.org for more information.



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