

# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

## San Bernardino Unit

Serving Inyo, Mono, & San Bernardino Counties



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**RELEASE**  
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### **Bark Beetle Hazard Mitigation Work in Wrightwood**

**Wrightwood-** Monday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 CAL FIRE inmate handcrews from Fenner Canyon and Pilot Rock will be performing Fire Hazard Mitigation by removing dangerous Bark Beetle Infested trees at Oak Street and Sparrow Road in the community of Wrightwood. This project provides critical hazard mitigation to drought stressed trees. These stressed trees can provide a fertile bed for the Bark Beetle to flourish. Tree mortality is generally restricted to scattered saplings and poles that are suppressed, diseased, or injured. Widespread mortality and top-killing typically occur during drought years when water stressed trees are less able to repel beetle attacks.

In the spring, adult beetle emerge and initiate attacks on stressed trees or fresh slash by boring through the bark. Standing dead trees should be removed because they are a fire hazard and have the potential of causing greater devastation to life and property during a wildfire. Once a tree is infested there is essentially no hope of saving it. If detected early, prompt tree removal and proper handling of the wood and branches can eliminate the beetle brood thereby reducing the possibility of neighboring trees from becoming infested. As we have witnessed an unprecedented number of wildfires within California already to date, this necessary project reminds us all to be proactive and preventative when it comes to wildland fires. History has shown that it doesn't take an extraordinarily dry year for devastating fires to occur, so it's important for residents to always be prepared for that eventuality by maintaining appropriate fuel reduction around their homes as well as being ready to evacuate if the need arises. Last year was a record dry calendar year and if the dry conditions persist, it is likely that we'll see an increase in bark beetle caused mortality. This can have devastating effects to homeowners not prepared for wildland fires.

To find out more about how to fire safe your home and property you can contact your local fire department, CAL FIRE or go to the CAL FIRE web site at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov) or [www.readyforwildfire.org](http://www.readyforwildfire.org)