
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit

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FOUR SPRINGS RESORT - FIRE INVESTIGATION CONCLUDED **“Can Your Ashes”**

St. Helena – The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), Sonoma Lake Napa Unit, fire investigator concluded the cause and origin, fire investigation at Four Springs Resort in Lake County on Wednesday, June 1, 2011. The cause of the structure fire was determined to be improper disposal of fire pit ashes.

Mid-day on May 30, 2011 the fire pits ashes were improperly disposed of, by placing the ashes into a plastic bag, then placing the plastic bag into a cardboard box, next to the structure.

CAL FIRE, Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit Chief, Tim Streblov recalls the phrase “Can your ashes” when he began his career with the department. The slogan reminds residents to carry out proper ash debris disposal.

Following the below guidelines when disposing ashes from a fireplace, wood stove, fire pit or barbeque will assist in meeting that goal:

- **Store ash in a non-combustible metal container** with an air tight seal. After adding ash to the bucket, pour water in the bucket to extinguish any hot coals. Place lid on container tightly.
- Store ash bucket in a safe location away from flammable materials (buildings and decks), just in case stray cinders escape.

Chief Streblov says “The department’s goal is to prevent fires and we ask residents for their help to bring us closer to success”.

Keep in mind that hot coals, hidden in a pile of ashes are well insulated and can stay hot for many days. **Never** empty ashes into a paper or plastic bag, cardboard box or similar container.

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