CAL FIRE NEWS
RELEASE
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

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RELEASE DATE: May 1, 2013

CAL FIRE/TCFD REMINDS RESIDENTS TO USE CAUTION WHEN USING EQUIPMENT

Red Bluff – The Tehama-Glenn Unit of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the Tehama County Fire Department (TCFD) urges residents to use caution when working outdoors. The lack of rainfall this past winter and spring and the warmer temperatures, combined with increased winds and low humidity’s are elevating the risk of wildfires. CAL FIRE/TCFD has recently responded to three fires involving industrial harvesters in grain fields. As the fire danger increases, the unsafe use of equipment can start fires.

As residents clear dead grass and brush 100 feet from homes CAL FIRE/TCFD wants to remind homeowners that how they clear their Defensible Space is just as important. CAL FIRE/TCFD offers the following tips to prevent fires from equipment use:

- NEVER use propane torches to burn away grass and brush.
- Do yard maintenance with powered equipment before 10 a.m., not during the heat of the day or when the wind is blowing.
- Never use lawn mowers on dry grass or brush. The spark from the metal blade of a lawn mower against a rock can easily ignite a wildfire. Use a string trimmer instead.
- If possible remove any rocks in and around the area before operating equipment.
- Be sure your portable gas powered equipment has a spark arrester.
- Never re-fuel while equipment is still hot from use.
- Keep the equipment maintained and free of carbon and other buildup.
- Always have a shovel and water supply nearby.

For more steps on how to prepare for fire season and other fire safety tips visit www.fire.ca.gov or www.ReadyForWildfire.org.