

# Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

## Press Release

**Subject: 2 Alarm Grass Fire**  
**Bailey Road, between Pittsburg and Concord**

Release Date: 1/16/12

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The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District responded to a grass fire on Bailey Road at 11:20am this morning. The first arriving engine from Concord reported 2-3 acres of grass involved moving up the hill from Bailey Road. The fire eventually consumed approximately 40 acres and went to 2 alarms including resources from Cal Fire and the Federal Fire Department at the MOTCO terminal in Concord. Bulldozers from Cal Fire and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District were used to create a containment line around the fire. Approximately 50 firefighters worked for almost 2 hours to contain the fire and remained on the scene well into the afternoon to put out hot spots and debris piles. Bailey Road was completely shut down for almost 2 hours. The cause of the fire was not determined, but originated in an area known for illegal dumping.

The unusually dry weather has created fire conditions similar to those found during the summer months. The Fire District recently returned to a fire season dispatch protocol due to the hazardous fire conditions. Wildland fire apparatus that are normally not needed during the rainy winter months were brought back into service in order to deal with the ongoing dry conditions in our area.

“Residents are encouraged to maintain their defensible space throughout the year – as we can see, California can be prone to grass and vegetation fires well into the winter months without substantial rainfall,” stated Fire Marshal Lewis Broschard. He added “today’s fire is a reminder to take additional precautions with outdoor burning, barbecues and open flames in grassy areas – the grass is very dry and although the air temperature is cool, humidity and fuel moisture are very low which allows the grass to burn easily in many areas. Barbecues and other open flames should not be operated near dry grassy areas and should be maintained at least 20 feet away from these areas to prevent fires.”