



NEWS RELEASE
City of Chico
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 12, 2022

Contact: City of Chico Fire Department (530) 897-3400

*****MEDIA ALERT*****

COMBUSTIBLE FURNITURE IN OUTDOOR SPACES CREATES FIRE RISK

CHICO, CA — (Monday, December 12, 2022) - The Chico Fire Department encourages the public to reduce fire risk by removing combustible furniture from outdoor spaces.

“We’ve seen a sizable increase in couch and furniture fires this year over the previous six years. From only 46 fires in 2016 up to 67 in 2022. Data for 2022 is through September only and is strictly fires that involved couches in an open space in the roadways”, said Adam Young, Fire Prevention Officer for the Chico Fire Department.

According to City code, storage, stockpiling, or maintaining any combustible furniture on private property must be screened from any public right-of-way. Combustible furniture includes, but is not limited to stuffed couches and chairs, mattresses, futons, and any furniture not specifically designed and intended for outdoor use. Objects and activities will be considered "screened" when they are either (1) not visible from a public right-of-way, or (2) behind a solid six-foot-high fence, wall, or hedge where such fence, wall, or hedge is otherwise permitted by zoning and building codes.

To help educate the public on this issue, Chico Fire has created a door hanger used for homes that are displaying combustible furniture on private property, notifying them of the consequences if they fail to remove the furniture per the City’s code. “Usually, we will give them a warning, and 2-4 weeks to properly screen or dispose of the furniture before action is taken,” said Adam Young. “If the residence fails to comply, further enforcement may be taken, including fines”.

“Safety is always our top priority. The City of Chico will continue our enforcement efforts to reduce the instances of unscreened, combustible furniture being left on porches in the areas of town where fires have occurred.” said City Fire Prevention Officer, Raul Gonzales.

For more information or if you would like to anonymously report a potential fire hazard, you may call (530) 897-3400 or email fire-prevention@chicoca.gov

Located in Butte County, California, Chico is the cultural and economic center of the northern Sacramento Valley and the largest city north of Sacramento. Known as a college town, the home of California State University, Chico and for Bidwell Park, one of the largest urban parks in the world. For more information, visit www.chico.ca.us

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