



## NEWS RELEASE

City of Chico

[www.chicoca.gov](http://www.chicoca.gov)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 2025

### CONTACT

Paul Ricketts

Fire Marshal, City of Chico

530-897-3496

[Paul.Ricketts@chicoca.gov](mailto:Paul.Ricketts@chicoca.gov)

### CHICO CITY COUNCIL APPROVES ORDINANCE RESTRICTING THE USE OF BARBEQUES AND OUTDOOR WARMING APPLIANCES WITH OPEN FLAME ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

**CHICO, CA** - In an effort to protect our community, the Chico City Council recently approved an ordinance restricting the use of barbeques and outdoor warming appliances with an open flame on public property.

Last year, the Chico Fire Department responded to 274 fires caused by transients and has responded to 102 fires caused by transients this year. The ordinance will assist in reducing the risk of unattended or unauthorized use of open flame appliances and barbeques in public spaces, including public rights-of-way, City-owned properties, open spaces, greenways, and undesignated areas of local parks.

“It has come to our attention that many residents misinterpreted the ordinance and are under the impression that permits will be required in order to enjoy barbeques and open flame appliances on private property,” said Chico City Manager, Mark Sorensen. “There is nothing in this ordinance that implies that permits are required for the use of barbeques or outdoor warming appliances with open flame on private property.”

A substantial portion of the City of Chico has been identified as “High” and “Very High” fire risk based on factors such as the amount of fuels, terrain, and weather patterns as assessed in the City’s [Community Wildfire Protection Plan](#) and [Vegetation Fuel Management Plan](#), as well as CAL FIRE’s recently updated [Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map](#). The intent of the ordinance is to address the significant number of fires in the City linked to uncontrolled outdoor open flame sources, and to keep our community safe.

-more-

For more information, a frequently asked questions document is available on the [Chico Fire Department website](#).

*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 United States. For more information, visit [www.chicoca.gov](http://www.chicoca.gov).*

###