



## NEWS RELEASE

City of Chico

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

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **FIRE AND GATE RESTRICTION ISSUED FOR BIDWELL PARK DURING RED FLAG WARNING – RESIDENTS URGED TO USE CAUTION**

**CHICO, CA** — The National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning for the region, including the City of Chico, beginning September 12 at 11 a.m. and continuing through September 14 at 11 a.m.

A Red Flag Warning is issued when a combination of strong winds, low relative humidity, and warm temperatures create critical fire weather conditions. Under these conditions, any fire that starts can spread rapidly, become difficult to control, and threaten lives, property, and natural resources.

During the Red Flag Warning, all the gates into the interior portion of Lower Bidwell Park and the gate and Horseshoe Lake/Lot E in Upper Bidwell Park will be closed. All BBQs, including the use of charcoal and propane, are prohibited throughout Bidwell Park during the Red Flag Warning. Smoking and open fires are always prohibited in Bidwell Park as well as City parks and greenways.

The Chico Fire Department urges residents to exercise extreme caution and take steps to prevent accidental fires during the warning period. Residents are encouraged to take the following precautions:

- Avoid any outdoor activities that could generate sparks.
- Discard cigarettes or matches appropriately and NEVER on the ground.
- Do not park vehicles on dry grass or vegetation, as hot exhaust systems can ignite fuels.
- Ensure trailer safety chains are secured and not dragging on roadways.
- Postpone welding, grinding, mowing dry grass, or using equipment that may create sparks during peak fire weather conditions.
- Have an emergency plan in place and be prepared to evacuate if necessary.

- Sign up for local emergency alerts at [Smart911](#).

*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).*

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