

RESIDENTS' GUIDE TO RELOCATION

The Army has established a voluntary relocation program so that people who wish to be relocated out of Monterey County during the upcoming prescribed burn can relocate at Army expense. The guide explains the relocation program.

What does relocation mean?

You can move yourself and your family members to stay with relatives or friends or you can stay in a hotel or motel for several days until all the smoke has blown away. The Army has made arrangements to provide meals, food, lodging, and special requirements for people who choose to relocate.

Why would I consider relocation?

Although the Army is doing all it can to reduce the amount of smoke, some people could have health problems from exposure to smoke. How can you decide whether there is a health risk for you? Public health officials generally agree that:

- 1) Exposure to high concentrations of smoke is not good for you;
 - 2) The amount of smoke you will be exposed to from a well-managed prescribed burn should not be sufficient to cause health problems for people in good health; and
 - 3) The health risks from exposure to smoke are higher for people with existing breathing conditions, such as asthma or emphysema.
- If you believe smoke could be bad for you, the Army will assist you to relocate out of the area during the time the smoke is in the air. If you are not certain whether relocation is necessary, speak with a physician or other health professional.

What if I have health concerns but I don't want to relocate?

As stated above, smoke should not cause problems for healthy people. If you have health problems but decide to remain in the area, you can take the following precautions:

- Reduce outside activities, remain indoors as much as possible
- Limit physical activity.
- Stock adequate supplies and be especially vigilant about taking prescribed medication.
- Drink plenty of liquids.
- Consider using an over-the-counter nasal moisturizing spray (saline).
- Use humidifiers to ease any irritation caused by the smoke.
- Consider using a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) room filtration unit
- Seek medical care if breathing becomes difficult.

Who qualifies for relocation?

This is a **voluntary** program open to residents of Monterey County. No one is required to relocate.

The Army will require proof of Monterey County residency and the head of household will be asked to sign a statement saying that he or she is a U.S. citizen or legal alien. Under U.S. law, any member of the household (including a child) who is a U.S. citizen can be considered to be the head of household. So if any child is a U.S. citizen, the Army can relocate other family members who are not citizens as well.

If you would like to be temporarily relocated, contact the Army regardless of your citizenship or resident status. The Army will refer anyone who cannot meet federal citizenship or residence requirements to the Monterey Chapter of the American Red Cross. The Red Cross does not require any statement regarding citizenship or immigrant status.

The Army will serve as the clearinghouse for these services, so make your application directly to the Army.

How do I qualify for relocation?

Call the Army at (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699. You will need to fill out some paperwork before the Army can pay relocation expenses. You will need to appear **in person** either at the Fort Ord Cleanup office, or at a sign-up meeting (see box). **You must bring: 1) photo identification (such as a current driver's license or passport) and 2) some form of proof that you are a Monterey County resident.** Proof of Monterey County residency could include a driver's license, checking account, electric or telephone bills, or a student body card.

We will help you fill out the forms. Fill out the forms **BEFORE** the Army announces the date for a prescribed burn, to avoid delays in getting relocation approved. If you fill out the paperwork but then decide you don't want to relocate for a particular burn, that's OK.

If I already applied for relocation, do I have to apply again?

If you applied for relocation during 2002, you will be sent a letter describing changes in the relocation program. Included in that letter will be a re-enrollment form that asks whether you want to continue to be in the relocation program and asks you to acknowledge the changes made in the program. If you complete this form and mail it to the Army by July 15, you will continue to be enrolled for relocation and do not need to complete any additional steps. If you do not complete and mail the form, or you did not apply during 2002, you must apply for relocation.

What if I don't relocate and then I have health problems during a prescribed burn?

If you know you are sensitive to smoke, you may want to consider relocating before the fire is lit so this circumstance doesn't occur. If you begin to have health problems during a prescribed burn, **call your health care provider or call 911.** Individuals who cannot afford medical insurance should still request medical treatment. Government programs are available to cover emergency medical treatment for low-income people.

If individuals choose not to relocate, but experience health difficulties during a prescribed burn and wish to be relocated, they can call the Army at (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699 or the American Red Cross at (831) 424-4824. Both organizations will provide temporary lodging, meals, and transportation. The

Army will require proof of Monterey County residency and the head of household will need to sign a statement saying that he or she is a U.S. Citizen or legal alien. The Red Cross does not require proof of residency nor any statement regarding citizenship or immigrant status.

A live operator answers the Army's hotline only during working hours (8 AM – 5 PM, weekdays), so if you must relocate during other hours please call the American Red Cross, or relocate and we will arrange reimbursement upon your return.

How will I be notified before the prescribed burn?

After you complete the application for relocation benefits, you will be put on a notification list. The Army will contact you, and at that time you can let the Army know the best way to notify you of any scheduled prescribed burns, whether by e-mail, phone, or fax. Because you will only receive 3-days notice, U.S. Mail may not reach you in time to be of any value. It is your responsibility to keep the Army informed about how to contact you. So if you move, or your phone number changes, it is your responsibility to tell the Army about that.

The Army will not know exactly on which day the prescribed burn will occur, because it depends on weather conditions. **The Army will only be able to give you three days notice that a burn could occur.** Otherwise the Army could be giving you a number of false alarms. The Army will only make **one** effort to contact you, using the method you specified, so be sure to keep the Army updated about any changes in address, phone numbers, or e-mail address.

Once you get this notice you need to do two things: 1) Let the Army know for sure whether you plan to relocate; and (2) check in daily on the hotline (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699 or check the web site (www.FortOrdCleanup.com) to get daily updates.

The final decision to go ahead with a burn, or postpone it, is made first thing in the morning, after the wind conditions are known. So you will need to relocate the afternoon before the burn. There will not be time to notify you to relocate the day of the burn. If the Army tells you about a burn and you relocate, but then the Army decides not to light the burn because of wind conditions, the Army will pay your expenses until you are told to return.

If you are not sure whether a burn is scheduled, call the hotline at (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699 for the latest information on the burn schedule.

How long will I be away from my home?

You'll be away from home three nights, beginning the night before the burn. If there is still too much smoke in the air, the Army may extend the relocation period. Of course you can return to your home anytime, since your relocation is voluntary. But if you do come home, the Army will only reimburse you for the time you were away. You can also stay away longer, but the Army will only reimburse you for your relocation expenses during the "official" relocation period.

What should I do about my pets and houseplants?

You will need to make arrangements for your pets and for your houseplants. Speak with your neighbors, friends, or relatives, who may be able to care for your pets or plants during your temporary relocation. If this doesn't work, an Army representative will help you arrange to place your pets (except fish) in a kennel. The Army will pay for this. Some hotels will accept small pets. Be sure to discuss your needs with an Army representative when you register for relocation.

Where will I be relocated?

You can stay with a relative or friend or you can stay in a motel or hotel.

If you choose to stay in a motel or hotel provided by the Army, the Army has made arrangements with some motels so your lodging costs will be billed directly to the government. The Army will make arrangements with motels in areas outside the Monterey County exclusion zone. For example, they could be in Gilroy, Morgan Hill, or in Santa Cruz. If you wish to stay in a room provided by the Army, you must apply for relocation at least 48 hours prior to the announced date of a prescribed burn. **People who register after that time will have the choice of relocating at their own expense, receiving reimbursement after the fire is over, or they may receive emergency housing through the American Red Cross.** Be sure to submit your application early – you will have several weeks at the beginning of "burn season" to apply before any burns will be announced – so that the Army can ensure that a pre-paid room will be available.

The pre-paid rooms that the Army will provide are in nationally recognized motel chains in the "moderate" price range. You will be asked to state your preferences for which city in which you are relocated, and the Army will try to respond to your preferences. However, once an assignment has been made to a pre-paid hotel, no changes will be made in that assignment. You can either stay in that motel, or you can inform the Army that you will be staying in a motel of your own preference and request reimbursement upon your return.

If you choose to make your own arrangements, the Army will reimburse you for your room up to the limit that applies to all government travel. However, the Army will NOT reimburse you for lodging in Marina, Seaside, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Carmel, Carmel Valley, Spreckels, Salinas and Castroville (or rural areas adjoining these cities). These areas are excluded to ensure that if you relocate, there is close to zero chance that smoke from Fort Ord will affect you.

The reimbursement limit in Monterey is \$75 per night per family from November to April, and \$94 per night per family from May through October (because of tourist season). Some larger families may need more than one room – be sure to

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discuss this with the Army representative when you enroll in the program. The reimbursement rate above is the 2003 rate. These rates change each year, and will change again on October 2003. Normally these changes are increases.

When you stay any place other than the motels arranged for by the Army, you would pay the motel directly, then receive reimbursement from the Army. Be sure that the hotel or motel you pick is located outside of Monterey County. You will not be reimbursed if you relocate within Monterey County. If you choose to stay with relatives or friends, you will not be reimbursed for lodging, but you will still receive money for meals.

When you fill out the forms requesting relocation assistance, an Army representative will talk with you to discuss any special needs you may have.

You should receive your reimbursement check within 30 days after the Army receives your reimbursement request and receipts.

What will I receive for meals?

People who relocate on their own and then request reimbursement will receive a daily meal allowance based on a limit established for the Monterey area. This is the same limit paid to all Federal employees — for all agencies, military and non-military — when they travel in the Monterey area. The limit through September 30, 2003 is \$46 a day for adults. Children under 12 receive 50% of the adult daily rate (\$23). These limits are adjusted each year, based on surveys of costs for meals in the Monterey area, and might change slightly on October 1.

If people travel only part of a day, the daily rates for meal reimbursement rates are prorated based on the portion of the day that was traveled. If you leave your home before 7 AM, you will receive \$46 per adult (or whatever the per diem is after October 1, 2003). If you leave before 1 PM, you will receive \$34.50. If you leave before 7 PM, you will receive \$23. If you leave after 7 PM, you will receive \$11.50.

Do I have to spend my own money for meals?

People who choose to relocate to a motel selected by the Army may also choose to receive food vouchers. If you request vouchers, they will be delivered to you at your motel or at a nearby facility within easy walking distance (you will be told exactly where to get your meal vouchers when you are assigned to a motel). These vouchers can only be used at certain specified restaurants at which the Army has arranged payment based on vouchers. **Individuals who wish to receive vouchers should request them when they complete their application for relocation.**

How do I move?

The Army will pay transportation costs to relocate. Normally you would use your personal auto to move members of your household and the personal belongings and medications necessary for three nights. If you don't have a car, ask a friend or relative to help. If none of those options works for you, call the Army hotline so that other arrangements can be made.

The Army will reimburse transportation costs from homes to the place where people are relocating, and back again, at a standard federal mileage rate. The 2003 rate is 36.5 cents per mile. The Army will reimburse a maximum of 300 miles.

If individuals do not have access to private autos, the Army will arrange alternative transportation so long as the request is made in advance when the individual applies for relocation.

What if I have special requirements?

You may request reimbursement or ask that arrangements be made to meet special requirements such as moving bed-ridden people, moving medical equipment, moving or kenneling pets. Under some circumstances, home security during the time away may also be appropriate. If a minor is relocating without an adult member of the family, special arrangements will be necessary. All special requirements must be identified when you initially request relocation. The Army must pre-approve expenditures for special requirements.

Which of my expenses will *not* be covered?

The Army will not pay your rent, mortgage, or the utilities on your home during your temporary relocation. These payments are not considered to be additional costs caused by your relocation, even though you will not be living in your home.

Federal law does not allow the Army to pay for lost wages, or for leave that is lost, during relocation. You need to consider this when you decide whether to relocate.

Expenses for which you will NOT be reimbursed include:

- Expenses other than meals, lodging and transportation that the Army has not approved in advance;
- Damage caused by pets;
- Damage that you, your family or your guests cause to your temporary housing, its furniture, or recreation equipment;
- The cost of temporary housing beyond the date on which your temporary relocation period ends;
- Expenses related to accidents, injuries, or illnesses that you may experience during your temporary relocation period;
- If you are housed in a motel or hotel, any charges to your room other than lodging (such as room service or other food, beverages, telephone charges, video rentals, pay-per-view television programs, damages to the hotel, etc.);
- Expenses for searching for temporary housing; and
- Duplicate benefits — expenses that have already been paid by someone else, such as a social welfare agency.

How will I be reimbursed for approved costs that I pay out of my own pocket?

If you pay for expenses out of your own pocket, you will be reimbursed for meals, lodging, transportation, and pre-approved special requirements. Keep your receipts for lodging, transportation and special requirements to show your expenses. You do not need to keep receipts for meals, since you will be paid a flat per diem rate for meals. Upon your return you will need to fill out a reimbursement request form and submit copies of your receipts. Call the Army hotline at (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699, and we can help you fill out the form. Approximately 30 days after the form has been completed and approved, you will receive a U.S. Treasury check made out to the person designated as the head of your household.

The head of household will be asked to provide his or her social security number on the reimbursement request form. The Internal Revenue Service requires this information before federal agencies can issue checks. The Army will ensure the privacy of this information.

How will I be notified that relocation is over?

You will be responsible to call the hotline at (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699, or check the web page (at www.FortordCleanup.com), daily during relocation. There will be announcements in both English and Spanish telling you when relocation will end. For planning purposes, assume that you will be gone three nights/four days. This could change if the burn is cancelled, or if there is more smoke in the air than anticipated.

What other responsibilities do I have while I am receiving this assistance?

Your responsibilities include:

- Keeping your receipts, so you can be reimbursed for any approved costs that you pay out of your own pocket.
- Helping the Army determine the types of assistance that you and the other members of your household will require by providing the information that is requested at the time that you are interviewed by an Army representative;
- Informing the Army about any special needs (for example, arrangements for pets and medical problems or disabilities of members of your household);
- If you are staying at a motel, keeping any rules made by the motel, as well as obeying the normal rules of courtesy at a motel;
- Making arrangements on your own for transportation to work, to the post office, and to medical or other appointments;
- Taking care of your temporary residence;
- Leaving your temporary residence when the prescribed burn is completed, and
- Keeping the Army notified about where you can be reached.

What happens when the prescribed burn is over?

If your temporary housing is in a hotel or motel, the checkout time is posted in your room, or the clerk at the front desk can give you this information. Be sure to check out by this time or you could be charged for another day's lodging.

When you leave the hotel or motel, you must check out by going to the main desk and informing the clerk that you are checking out. At that time, you will have to pay all bills for services other than the cost of your room. If you are staying in a motel or hotel other than those assigned by the Army, you will also need to pay for your lodging. Be sure to keep your receipt so you can get reimbursed.

What if I am asked to leave my temporary housing before the relocation is over?

If the manager of your temporary housing determines that you or other members of your household are not following the rules of that housing, you may be asked to leave.

If — as a result of breaking rules or regulations — you are asked to leave the temporary housing that the Army arranged for you, the Army will NOT move you a second time. Your relocation assistance may be terminated, and you may have to find and pay for temporary housing on your own.

Reasons for terminating relocation assistance include, but are not limited to the following:

- Failure to take care of your temporary housing;
- Failure to comply with hotel or motel rules;
- Failure to pay charges for which you are liable;
- Misrepresentation or fraud;
- Criminal activities;
- Failure to vacate your primary residence after being provided relocation assistance.

Obligation to Provide Factual Information

Please be aware that it is criminal offense to receive funds from the federal government based on false information. You will be asked to sign a statement certifying that the information you provide is accurate and honest.

Who do I call if I have questions?

Call the hotline at (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699.

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RESIDENTS' GUIDE TO THE PRESCRIBED BURN

What is a prescribed burn?

A prescribed burn is a fire that is ignited, under very tightly controlled conditions, to burn off vegetation on a particular piece of land.

Why is the Army conducting a prescribed burn?

The Army will use prescribed burns to burn off brush so the Army can safely remove unexploded ordnance and explosives. This unexploded ordnance and explosives was left over from when the Army used Fort Ord to train soldiers to fire artillery and use explosives. Hundreds of thousands of rounds of artillery and rockets were fired while Fort Ord was a training center. Some of the shells and explosives didn't explode. So they still remain on the ground, particularly in former firing ranges.

The Army wants to clean up this land as soon as possible. Otherwise, anyone who trespasses on the land could be killed or seriously injured. But the land is covered with brush. Before it is safe for cleanup workers to enter the land, the Army has to burn off the brush. Cleanup workers will then be able to see the ground and can avoid stepping upon or kicking something explosive. Prescribed burns are the only safe way to remove the vegetation.

Once the vegetation has been cleared, the Army will use sophisticated detection equipment to find the unexploded ordnance and explosives. Then the Army will detonate any unexploded materials, and will remove remaining materials from the land. When the cleanup is over, some of the land will be developed, but more than 85% will remain as open space. These lands will become part of the largest park in Monterey County.

Where will the prescribed burn be?

The prescribed burn planned for autumn 2003 will be at Ranges 43-48, former firing ranges. [See map] The Army has identified these areas as high priority for cleanup because of the dangerous nature of the explosives remaining on this land. These former firing ranges are also near residences and schools, and there is a history of people trespassing on these lands, at considerable personal risk.



How long will the fire last?

The fire will probably only last one day. The fire itself may last as little as 5 hours but smoldering could keep smoke in the air for 1-2 days after the fire. If there are areas that did not completely burn, the Army might light small fires the day after the larger burn, to ensure that the area is clear of vegetation so cleanup work can begin.

How will the fire be controlled?

Last year, the Army prepared a Prescribed Burn Plan that looks at specific site conditions and describes the staff, organization and equipment required to conduct a safe burn. It also describes the "prescription" for how the fire would be ignited, and under what atmospheric conditions. The draft plan was reviewed by a number of local and state fire organizations to ensure it is fully adequate.



photo showing defensible polygons The areas alongside these roads have been cleared, providing a 45-foot wide firebreak. Before the fire, the fire control team will be certain that the roadways and fuel breaks around the perimeter are clear of vegetation. In addition, the team will treat a strip 100 feet wide outward from the containment roads to increase the effectiveness of the firebreak.

The fire will be controlled using helicopters and air tankers. Firefighters cannot be on the roads surrounding the burn once the fire has started, because they could be exposed to explosives detonated by the fire. Except in a few places where terrain provides protection, firefighters on the ground will remain at least 1,700 feet from the boundary of the fire, based on estimates of the maximum distance that a projectile set off by the fire could fly.

On the day of the fire, the first step will be to light a small test burn. This is a

way to make certain that the vegetation burns as expected, and that the atmospheric conditions are within the desired range.

If the test burn goes as planned, two helicopters will ignite the fire from the air, starting at the outer edges of the area to be burned so that the fire burns towards the center. Two additional helicopters can be used for ignition and can also be used for fire suppression. Two more helicopters are used for fire suppression only. In addition, two air tankers that can rapidly transport large quantities of water will be stationed at the Marina Airport, just a minute or two away.

The entire operation will be supervised from two command helicopters. The Air Ignition Specialist/Air Attack Supervisor will be in one helicopter, and the Incident Commander/Fire Boss will be in the other, providing overall management of the fire. They will be in communication with a Fire Weather Meteorologist/Smoke Specialist and Fire Behavior Analyst, who will be tracking the fire and weather conditions moment by moment. A Holding Group Supervisor, on the ground, will be responsible for pre-treatment of the site, and will supervise the fire suppression forces on the ground.



One of the helicopters is equipped with infrared technology that allows the team to "look through" the smoke and detect any fires that start outside the containment area. Another helicopter is equipped with a camera and video. Any spot fires outside the burn area can be quickly identified using this infrared and video surveillance. Spot fires can be quickly extinguished with foam or water from the helicopters or tankers. The infrared technology, because it can see through the smoke, also permits the Incident Commander to adjust the location where the foam or water is being delivered.

Three fire engines will be stationed at the Fitch Park Housing as a safety precaution. Fire Stop will provide an additional task force of fire engines and bulldozers that can be deployed in any areas free of unexploded ordnance at the direction of the Incident Commander.

If you wish additional information about how the fire will be controlled, the Prescribed Burn Plan is posted on the Fort Ord cleanup web site (www.FortOrdCleanup.com), and can be downloaded for viewing.

Could any homes be hit by flying shrapnel when ordnance or explosives are detonated during the fire?

The fire may set off some of the unexploded items in the training ranges, including rockets and projectiles. The Army has considerable knowledge about the characteristics of each of the shells and explosives at the site, and has calculated the maximum distance that one of these items could fly. The maximum distance a projectile could fly is 1,701 feet.

The Army believes this is a considerable over-estimate, using the most cautious assumptions. In addition, rockets and projectiles were always aimed towards the center of the land, not out towards the boundary. Even if a projectile did fly 1,701 feet, much of that distance would occur inside the boundary of the firing range.

There are 26 homes at Fitch Park (an area of military housing at Fort Ord) that are located slightly less than 1,701 feet from the outer boundary of the land where the fire will be set. As an added safety precaution, the Army will ask residents of these homes to stay inside the morning of the burn, even though the Army believes no projectiles will come anywhere near these homes. Security personnel will also be patrolling at Fitch Park during the fire.

Will the fire cause smoke that could affect neighbors?

The fire will produce smoke. Unfortunately there is no way to avoid that. But the Army is doing everything it can to minimize the amount of smoke and its impact upon its neighbors. The fire will be lit on a day when weather conditions allow the smoke to be lofted high in the air, where it can disperse without much impact upon people on the ground. There could be smoldering after the fire, which also puts smoke into the air. But areas that are smoldering will be watered down as quickly as possible. These actions will minimize smoke, but can't eliminate it completely. Nor can the Army control the weather. If weather conditions change rapidly, neighbors could be exposed to more smoke than expected.

Where does the smoke blow?

The normal winds in the area blow from the ocean towards the land. Because of this, during past fires smoke blew to the east and southeast of Fort Ord along Highway 68 and towards Salinas. The Army hopes to light the fire on a day when, during the morning at least, the wind is blowing from the land toward the sea, or there is little wind. If weather conditions

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are right, the smoke will go high in the air where it will disperse before the afternoon winds come in from the sea.

Is smoke a health risk?

A number of federal agencies, particularly the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and fire fighting organizations like the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have conducted numerous studies on the substances in smoke, the exposures people receive—including fire fighters and nearby communities—and the possible health consequences. The results of these studies show two things: 1) breathing high concentrations of smoke is not good for you, and 2) the concentrations to which people are exposed by smoke from prescribed burns seldom reach the point that they pose a health risk to the general population, although sometimes smoke can be an irritant or health risk for people with existing health problems.

Linda Velasquez, M.D., acting Monterey County Public Health Officer says that: "Breathing lots of smoke isn't good for you, but how harmful it is depends on how much you breathe and your own state of health. The amounts of smoke that results from a properly conducted prescribed burn should not pose a health risk to healthy people. If there is any discomfort it should be temporary and minimal, like the effects of sitting around a campfire. But people with existing breathing conditions, such as asthma or emphysema, may want to take reasonable precautions like staying indoors or might consider relocating during the fire."

The Army offers a program for people who want to relocate during the fire. See pages 4 and 5.

Is a fire at Fort Ord different because of the explosives and other materials on the ground?

There is one way in which a fire at Fort Ord is different. When a fire burns on land where there is unexploded shells or explosives, some percentage of those materials are detonated or burn during the fire, releasing emissions into the air. The Army, in consultation with both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, conducted an air emissions study that addressed the issue of whether the emissions from incidental detonation or burning are significant in either quantity or health risk. The study received a technical peer review from the California Air Resources Board, air-modeling staff from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's headquarters office, and the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District.

After calculating the air emissions that would result from incidental detonation of ordnance and explosives during a fire, researchers compared the emissions from incidental detonation to the emissions of the same contaminants if just the vegetation alone were burned. The study concluded:

- 1) Air pollutant emissions from incidental ordnance and explosives detonation during a prescribed burn will be minor compared to emissions contributed directly by burning vegetation.
- 2) Incidental detonation of ordnance and explosives will result in pollutant concentrations well below health-protective regulatory screening values.

In less scientific language: *A fire at Fort Ord is essentially no different than a fire anywhere else.*

Can the Army predict exactly what the concentrations of smoke will be?

No, there are too many things to take into account. This includes the characteristics of the fire itself, the vegetation type and density, weather conditions, distance from the fire, and many other things. But the Army has provided funding to the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District to conduct a computer modeling study to predict the concentrations of smoke in different locations surrounding Fort Ord. After the Ranges 43-48 prescribed burn this fall, the predictions from the computer modeling will be compared with the actual results from the air monitoring. This will allow the agencies to "fine tune" the model to produce increasingly accurate predictions.

How will the Army monitor concentrations of smoke during the prescribed burn?

The Army has developed a monitoring program to measure the concentrations of pollutants in the air during the upcoming prescribed burn at Ranges 43-48. This program is described in an Air Sampling and Analysis Plan, and will soon be available on the Fort Ord web site at www.FortOrdCleanup.com. Because the amount of unexploded ordnance and explosives on Ranges 43-48 is the densest of any site at Fort Ord, monitoring of this prescribed burn will provide a "worst-case" scenario for making decisions about future prescribed burns at Fort Ord.

The purpose of the air-monitoring program is to detect and measure air emissions resulting from incidental detonation of unexploded ordnance or explosives. The monitoring program will also help determine how much smoke blows downwind during the fire, and where.

The regulatory agencies have established "health-protective screening levels" for contaminants. Whenever the concentrations of contaminants are below these screening levels, the agencies believe the public is "safe" with a high margin of safety. If there are concentrations of contaminants that equal or exceed the screening level, then a more detailed health risk assessment

must be made to determine whether public health is protected.

Air quality samples from the prescribed burn on Ranges 43-48 will be sent to a laboratory for analysis, and these results will be compared with the screening levels. If the concentrations for any of the measured contaminants exceed the screening levels, then the Army will need to conduct a health risk assessment. This could result in modifications to future prescribed burn operations.

Will the fire release radioactivity into the air?

No. There are no radioactive materials on the land at Fort Ord.

Will the public be exposed to dangerous levels of poison oak in the air?

Poison oak does contain a substance called *urushiol* that causes the poison oak rash. This substance can be carried in smoke when poison oak is burned.

Although poison oak is prevalent in a number of places in California, even at Fort Ord, the amount of poison oak depends on the type of vegetation in a particular area. Studies show that far less than 1% of the vegetation where the burns will occur is poison oak. The training ranges where the prescribed burn will occur are a vegetation habitat known as Maritime Chaparral. Very little poison oak grows in maritime chaparral.

There have been numerous fires and prescribed burns at Fort Ord in the past, and the Army has not received reports of poison oak cases during these past fires. The Army checked with fire departments that managed fires at Fort Ord in the past to get their reports on poison oak cases. The Fire Departments reported that there were occasional cases of "contact" poison oak, when firefighters walked through poison oak and then took their clothes home to be washed. [Contact with poison oak is enough of an issue for the cleanup workers removing ordnance and explosives that Fort Ord has their overalls cleaned for them, rather than risk exposure to workers or their families.] But there were no reports of poison oak cases from smoke exposure among local fire fighters. Nationally the U.S. Forest Service has reported cases of poison oak among fire fighters exposed to dense smoke, but again there were few, if any, reports of poison oak cases in nearby communities.

Were chemical weapons used at Fort Ord that could be put into the air by a fire?

There is no evidence that chemical weapons were ever used at Fort Ord. The Army did find one test kit containing dilute samples of chemical weapon used during and after World War I. This kit was used to train soldiers to recognize the odor of chemical weapons, but is not evidence of the use of chemical weapons at Fort Ord.

What impact does a fire have on the natural habitat?

Approximately 473 acres of the 490-acre proposed burn area at Ranges 43-48 is a natural habitat called Central Maritime Chaparral. This habitat type has evolved with fire being a critical part of its natural life cycle. This plant community—and the animal species that dwell in it—are dependent on fire to recycle the nutrients, expose the mineral soil and stimulate germination of the seeds in the soil that have accumulated since the last fire. This natural succession allows the plant community to rejuvenate itself and enhances the natural diversity of this rare and unique habitat.

Central Maritime Chaparral is an extremely rare plant community. Approximately 85% of the worldwide distribution of several rare and endangered plants in central maritime chaparral exists on Fort Ord. Because they are rare and endangered, they are protected by law. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is the federal agency responsible for enforcing this law—the Endangered Species Act.

In 1997, the Army and many other entities (such as the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Monterey Peninsula College, City of Marina, etc.) signed a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) with the Fish & Wildlife Service to protect rare and endangered species and their habitats at the former Fort Ord and to allow the development of other areas. Under the terms of the Habitat Management Plan, the Army is supposed to use prescribed burns as the primary method of brush clearance in designated habitat reserves containing central maritime chaparral. To protect and enhance the health of the plant community, the Habitat Management Plan limits the burning of Central Maritime Chaparral in designated habitat reserves to no more than 800 acres a year.

Will there be other prescribed burns in future years?

Yes. The Army's decision in 2002 to use prescribed burns on Ranges 43-48 also applied to other land known as Range 30A and OE-16. After those parcels are cleaned up, the Army will continue to clean up the entire multi-range area. The Army may conclude that the same safety and habitat considerations that made it decide to use prescribed burns on Ranges 43-48, Range 30A and OE-16 may make prescribed burns the best option to remove vegetation on other portions of the multi-range area.

In addition, the Bureau of Land Management will continue to conduct periodic prescribed burns on lands turned over to them. There are two reasons for this: (1) as noted above, fires actually reinvigorate the central maritime chaparral habitat, including a number of rare or endangered species that are part of that habitat; and (2) occasional fires help control the amount of "fuel" on the land, so that any fires caused by an accident or natural events (such as lightning) won't burn out of control, endangering nearby residences.

RESIDENTS' GUIDE TO THE PRESCRIBED BURN