

# Fire Safety at Hipcamp

Hipcamp's mission is to get more people outside. We pair private landowners with outdoor recreationalists who are looking for new places to stay and camp and get outside. Hipcamp's core value as an organization is "leave it better" and we expect our Hosts and Hipcampers to be thoughtful neighbors, responsible citizens, and environmental stewards.

Hipcamp prioritizes educating our members about fire safety. We do extensive research to inform our internal and external policies and employ a variety of tools to ensure we are keeping our Hosts, Hipcampers, and communities fire safe.

## Our top strategies for mitigating fire danger include:

**Collaborating with experts:** Hipcamp has built a team of fire scientists and professionals in the USA and Australia who inform Hipcamp's policies and support our educational training for the Hipcamp community. Current collaborators include:

- Ken Pimlott, former Director of CAL FIRE
- Erika Lind, Fuel Management Planner at Forest Fire Management Victoria, Australia
- Yana Valachovic, County Director and Forest Advisor at University of California Cooperative Extension
- Lenya Quinn-Davidson, Fire Advisor at University of California Cooperative Extension
- Eamon Engber, Research Associate at Redwood National Park & Humboldt State University
- Don Hankins, Professor of Geography and Planning at CSU Chico and Field Director for the CSU Chico Ecological Reserves
- Veronica Stork, Founder and Executive Director of Wildfarmers

## Hipcamp fire safety alerts powered by the National Weather Service:

We access national fire advisory information across the US to automatically notify hosts if there is a Red Flag Warning in their area for fire danger. Hosts use this information to toggle on a fire ban tool for their property which notifies campers that some types of fires are no longer allowed on the property. This serves to set expectations and mitigate fire danger on Hipcamp properties.



**Fire safety trainings and requirements for Hosts:** Hipcamp's Host Standards and Camper Standards set expectations and serve as guidance for our Hipcamp community. As stated in both, we expect Hosts and Campers to research and comply with local regulations and fire restrictions. To assist in this effort, we also automatically send a dedicated email with fire safety resources to all Hosts when their listings become operational. In Spring 2021 Hipcamp also ran its first four-part webinar series to educate Hosts and Campers about safe fire practices ahead of peak wildfire season in the U.S.



I've been working in fire management since 1984 and am glad to be working with Hipcamp to support fire safety for their Hosts and Hipcampers. As the former director of CAL Fire — one of the largest fire departments in the world — I know first hand how critical it is that private businesses provide education on fire management and mitigation, and Hipcamp is stepping up as a leader in this space.

- Ken Pimlott, former Director of CAL FIRE

I'm proud to have partnered with Hipcamp to educate their community about fire safety. I've been impressed with the commitment to best practices and current information, both by the Hipcamp staff as well as by the landowners and campers who use Hipcamp. They are going out of their way to educate and empower their community, and to ensure fire safety at their host sites. With the ever-increasing threat of wildfire, this kind of leadership and education is essential

- Lenya Quinn-Davidson, Fire Advisor at University of California Cooperative Extension