

CLOSURE OF COMMAND POSTS

7727

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CAL FIRE peace officers may close the immediate area surrounding any command post set up for the purpose of abating any calamity described in PC §409.5(b). This also applies to a command post not located near the calamity, i.e., an incident base or camp located in an area other than the actual fire. Any unauthorized person entering a command post area who willfully remains within such area after receiving notice to leave is guilty of a misdemeanor [PC §409.5(c)].

The incident commander is responsible for deciding whether to close the command post area whenever the presence of unauthorized personnel is interfering with or distracting to the command post operation. The command post area must be adequately posted if the incident commander decides it will be closed. The signs should read as follows:

"Notice: This field command post is closed to entry by unauthorized persons by authority of California Penal Code, §409.5(b). Any unauthorized person who willfully and knowingly enters this area or who willfully remains in this area after given notice to leave shall be guilty of a misdemeanor [Penal Code, Sec. 409.5(c)]."

CAL FIRE officers closing and controlling the command post area should be aware that duly authorized representatives of any news service, newspaper, radio or TV station or network may not be prevented from entering the command post area [PC §409.5(d)].

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