



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Permissive burn periods for orchard pruning and attrition and forest management fires open

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is announcing that the open burning seasons for orchard pruning and attrition and for forest management fires will begin on Thursday, November 1, 2012.

The permissive burn period for both types of fires lasts from November 1, 2012, through April 30, 2013.

Under Air District policy, permissive BURN days will not be declared when a *Winter Spare the Air Alert* is in effect. Open burning requirements apply to the entire nine-county Bay Area, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, southwestern Solano and southern Sonoma counties.

Orchard pruning and attrition fires are agricultural fires set for the purpose of disposing of periodic prunings or attrition losses from fruit trees, nut trees, vineyards and cane fruits. These fires must be set or allowed by the public fire official having jurisdiction. They must be necessary to maintain and continue the growing of the fruit trees, vineyards and cane fruits as a gainful occupation. In order to qualify as a gainful occupation, proof of gross profit or loss as evidenced by tax receipts, sales slips or other such documents must be producible. Notification of these burns must be sent to the Air District prior to burning.

Forest management fires are also categorized as agricultural fires. These fires are set for the purpose of removing forest debris and for other forest management activities. They must be set or allowed by a public fire official having jurisdiction. Notification of these burns must be sent to the Air District prior to burning.

Forest management fires that are expected to exceed 10 acres in size, or to burn piled vegetation from more than 10 acres of land, are regulated as wildland vegetation management fires and are allowed year-round. These cannot be set without a Smoke Management Plan, which must be submitted 30 days in advance of the planned burn and approved by the Air District. An acreage burning allocation must also be received from the Air District each day before the start of any fire.

Open burning is regulated because of its impact on air quality. Certain fires for agricultural purposes, flood control, fire training and the prevention of fire hazards, among other purposes, are allowed when weather conditions are favorable, many of them during specified periods throughout the year. Each day of the year is designated as either a BURN or a NO BURN day, based on weather conditions, and permissible fires can only be set during their established burn season on a designated BURN day.

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Continued... Permissive burn periods for...

The Air District's open burning regulation, Regulation 5, is available at www.baaqmd.gov. Select "Rules and Regulations" in the drop-down menu under the "Work" portal. Open burn information is also available on the Air District's toll-free number at 1-800-HELP AIR (435-7247).

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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