



# NEWS

**For Immediate Release  
May 29, 2003**

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## **Open Burning Period for Orchard Pruning, Attrition, and Flood Debris End May 31<sup>st</sup>**

The open burning season for **Orchard Pruning and Attrition, and Flood Debris** fires will end on Saturday, May 31, 2003, according to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

For orchard pruning and attrition fires, the burn period normally ends on April 30; however, it was extended one month from May 1-31 this year due to excessive late winter rains.

The open burning season for permissible fires to dispose of vegetation lying or growing in natural channels or flood control channels and the extended wildlife management open burning season ends Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. This burn period normally starts on October 1 and ends at the end of May.

Open burning has been regulated in the Bay Area since 1957 because of its considerable contribution to air pollution.

**Allowed fires can only take place on a BURN day.** This means that even though a permissible burn period may be in effect, the party seeking open burn authorization must check with the Air District for daily burn status prior to burning. The Air District designates BURN day or NO BURN days based on meteorological and air quality conditions. BURN/NO BURN days are forecast by 3 p.m. on the District's toll-free number **1-800-HELP-AIR** for the following day.

These permissible open burning parameters apply to the entire Bay Area, Although certain fires are allowed during the appropriate burn season, each day of the year is designated as either a BURN or a NO BURN day. On days when air pollution caused by open burning would be minimized by favorable weather conditions, the Air District designates it a BURN day.

Open burning seasons apply to the entire Bay Area, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, southwestern Solano and southern Sonoma counties.

Bay Area residents may request a brochure about the District's open burning regulation by writing the Public Information Office at 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109, or by calling 415-749-4900. To register complaints about illegal burning or other odor problems, call the District's 24-hour complaint line at 1-800-334-ODOR.

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