



NEWS

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Permissive Burn Periods for Crop Replacement and Flood Debris Fires Opens

The bay Area Air Quality Management District has announced that the open burning season for "Crop Replacement" and "Flood Debris" fires will begin on October 1, 2004.

A crop replacement fire is an agricultural fire set for the purpose of establishing an agricultural crop in a location that formally contained another crop or is on previously uncultivated land. These fires are generally allowed from October 1 until April 30, 2005. Any crop replacement for the purpose of establishing an agricultural crop on previously uncultivated land that is expected to exceed 10 acres in size, or burn piled vegetation cleared or generated from more than 10 acres of land, are subject to the prescribed burning requirements in the Air District's Regulation 5, Section 401.15 and 408. These requirements include the Air District's approval of a smoke management plan prior to burning and receiving an acreage burning allocation from the Air District prior to ignition on day of the burn.

A "flood debris" fire is also categorized as an agricultural fire. These fires are set for the purpose of removing wood and vegetation debris deposited by floodwaters on agricultural land. Flood debris fires are limited to a period beginning October 1 and ending May 31, 2005.

Open burning is regulated because of its potential impact on air quality. Certain fires for agricultural purposes, flood control, fire training and the prevention of fire hazards are allowed for specified periods throughout the year.

Allowed fires can only take place on a BURN day. Any person seeking open burning authorization must check for daily burn status prior to burning. 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.

Open burning rules apply to the entire Bay Area, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, southwestern Solano and southern Sonoma counties. For additional information, call the District's Public Information Office at (415) 749-4900. Copies of the regulations can be downloaded from www.baaqmd.gov. 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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