



NEWS

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Open Burning Season for Double Cropping Stubble Ends, Burn Seasons for Stubble and Marsh Management Begin

The open burning season for disposal of double cropping stubble will come to a close on Thursday, August 31, while two other open burning seasons -- those for stubble and marsh management -- will begin the following day.

The open burning season for marsh management runs from September 1 through October 15. Marsh management fires must be set for the purpose of improving lowland and marsh areas for wildlife and game habitat and must be deemed necessary by the Department of Fish and Game. In addition, such fires are only allowed once in any 2-year period on a given piece of land, and no more than 100 acres of any property may be burned in a single day. All materials to be burned are subject to burn acreage limitations. Marsh management fires are not allowed before 10:00 a.m. or after 3:00 p.m., nor can any additional material be added to existing fires after 3:00 p.m.

The burning season for agricultural fires set to dispose of stubble and straw begins September 1 and runs through December 31. These fires must be deemed necessary and must be set or allowed by the public fire official having jurisdiction. All material to be burned shall be free of visible surface moisture and fires are subject to burn acreage limitations.

Open burning is regulated in the Bay Area because of its considerable contribution to air pollution. While backyard burning of leaves, trash, and grass cuttings or prunings has been prohibited in the Bay Area since 1970, certain fires for agricultural purposes, flood control, fire training and the prevention of fire hazards are exempted from District regulations for specified periods throughout the year.

Although certain fires are allowed during specific burn seasons, each day of the year is designated as either a BURN or a NO BURN day. The Air District's Open Burning regulation (Regulation 5) can be downloaded at www.baaqmd.gov. Follow the links under "Air Quality Status." This information is also available on the Air District's toll-free number at 1-800-435-7247.

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. For additional information, please call Janet Simon, Air Quality Specialist, at 415 749-4780.

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