



NEWS

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Permissive Burn Periods for Crop Replacement and Flood Debris Fires Open

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has announced that the open burning season for “Crop Replacement” and “Flood Debris” fires will begin on Sunday, October 1, 2006.

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 shall be from October 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007. Any crop replacement for the purpose of establishing an agricultural crop on previously uncultivated land exceeding 10 acres in size or 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, Sections 401.15 and 408. These requirements include the Air District’s approval of a smoke management plan prior to burning, and receipt of 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, 2007.

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.

Air District meteorologists forecast Burn/No Burn days by 3 PM for the following day. The Air District’s Open Burning regulation (Regulation 5) can be downloaded at www.baawmd.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 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, please call Janet Simon, Air Quality Specialist, at (415) 749-4780.

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