



NEWS

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Open Burning Seasons for Orchard Pruning, Attrition and Forest Management Begin

The agricultural season for fires set to remove forest debris (including the disposal of periodic pruning and attrition losses from fruit and nut trees, vineyards and cane fruits) will begin Tuesday, November 1, 2006, according to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

The open burn season runs from November 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007. Any fires set for Orchard Pruning, Attrition or Forest Management must be authorized by the appropriate fire official. All agricultural burns within the Bay Area must submit a burn notification to the Air District prior to burning.

Although certain fires are allowed during the appropriate burn season, each day of the year is designated as a **BURN** or a **NO BURN** day. The Air District designates a **BURN** day on days when air pollution generated by open burning would be minimized by favorable weather conditions.

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. Air District meteorologists forecast Burn/No Burn days by 3 PM for the following day. This information is recorded on the Air District's toll-free number – 1-800-HELP-AIR (1-800-435-7247). The Air District's open burning regulation (Regulation 5) can be downloaded at www.baaqmd.gov. Follow the link to regulations.

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 regarding Orchard Pruning, Attrition and/or Forest Management, please contact Janet Simon, Air Quality Specialist, at (415) 749-4780.

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