



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Open Burning Season Begins for Marsh Management

The open burning season for marsh management runs from February 1 through March 31, 2008 and applies to fires set for the purpose of improving marshland for wildlife habitat. All marsh management fires must be deemed necessary by the California Department of Fish and Game. No fire is allowed on a given piece of land more than once in any 2-year period, and no more than 100 acres of any property may be burned in a single day. Marsh management fires also require an Air District-approved Smoke Management Plan, as well as a daily acreage burning allocation from the Air District.

Marsh burners must call (415) 749-4915 by 12:00 noon on the day before the intended burn and leave a message with the property name and acreage amount to be burned. This is in addition to the existing requirement that burners call (415) 749-4600 between 8:30 AM and 11:30 AM on the morning of the planned burn and prior to ignition to receive their acreage allocation.

These fires are not allowed before 10:00 AM or after 3:00 PM, nor can any additional material be added to existing fires after 3:00 PM. The next marsh management burn period runs September 1 - October 15, 2008.

Air District meteorologists forecast Burn/No Burn days by 3 PM for the following day. To find out whether it is an open burn day, click on "Open Burn Status" under the "Advisories" header on the Air District website at www.baaqmd.gov. This information is also available on the Air District's toll-free number at 1-800-435-7247.

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. For additional information about marsh burning requirements at the Air District, please call Janet Simon, Air Quality Specialist, at (415) 749-4780.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is the public agency that is authorized to regulate stationary sources of air pollution in the nine Bay Area counties.

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