



NEWS

www.baaqmd.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 25, 2008

CONTACT: Aaron Richardson
415.749.4900

Open burning season for Double Crop Stubble ends, seasons for Marsh Management and Stubble and Straw begin

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is announcing the close of the permissible burn season for Double Crop Stubble within the Bay Area effective Sunday, August 31, 2008. Open burn seasons for Marsh Management and for Stubble and Straw begin Monday, September 1.

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.

Backyard burning of leaves, trash, and grass cuttings or prunings has been prohibited in the Bay Area since 1970, but certain fires, primarily used for agricultural and land management purposes, are permissible under Air District regulations for specified periods during the year. Each day of the year is designated as either a BURN or a NO BURN day, and permissible fires can only be set during their established burn season on a designated BURN day. 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.

The Air District's open burning regulation (Regulation 5) can be downloaded at www.baaqmd.gov. Follow the link to "Open Burn Status" under "Air Status / Technical Data." Open burn information is also available on the Air District's toll-free number at 1-800-HELP AIR (435-7247). For additional information, please call Janet Simon, Air Quality Specialist, at 415 749-4780.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is the public agency that regulates stationary sources of air pollution in the nine Bay Area counties. For more information, visit www.baaqmd.gov.

#