



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Permissive burn period for Marsh Management opens

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has announced that the open burning season for Marsh Management fires will begin on Sunday, February 1, 2009.

Marsh management fires are set for the purpose of improving marshland for wildlife habitat. The open burning season for marsh management runs from February 1 through March 31, 2009. 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 two-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, 2009.

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, among other purposes, are allowed during specified periods throughout 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.

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