



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Open burning season for Double Crop Stubble ends, fall Marsh Management and Stubble and Straw seasons begin

SAN FRANCISCO - Today the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is announcing the close of the permissible burn season for Double Crop Stubble on Sunday, August 31, 2009, and the opening burn season for fall Marsh Management and Stubble and Straw on Monday, September 1, 2009.

The fall open burning season for marsh management runs from September 1, 2009, through October 15, 2009. 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. Such fires are only allowed once in any two-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 a.m. or after 3 p.m., nor can any additional material be added to existing fires after 3 p.m.

The open burning season for agricultural fires set to dispose of stubble and straw begins September 1, 2009, and runs through December 31, 2009. 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.

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.

For additional information about marsh management and stubble and straw requirements at the Air District, please call Air Quality Specialist Janet Simon at (415) 749-4780. The Air District's open burning regulation (Regulation 5) can be downloaded at www.baaqmd.gov. Select "Rules and Regulations" in the drop-down menu under the "Work" portal. Open burn information is also available on the Air District's toll-free number at 1-800-HELP AIR (435-7247).

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency chartered with protecting air quality in the Bay Area.

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