



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 29, 2009

CONTACT: Aaron Richardson
415.749.4900

Permissive burn periods for Orchard Pruning & Attrition and Forest Management fires open

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has announced that the open burning seasons for Orchard Pruning & Attrition and Forest Management fires will begin on Sunday, November 1, 2009.

Orchard pruning and attrition fires are agricultural fires set for the purpose of disposal of periodic prunings and attrition losses from fruit trees, nut trees, vineyards and cane fruits. The permissive burn period for these fires lasts from November 1, 2009, through April 30, 2010.

These fires must be set or allowed by the public fire official having jurisdiction and must be necessary to maintain and continue the growing of the fruit trees, vineyards and cane fruits as a gainful occupation. In order to qualify as a gainful occupation, you must be able to show proof of gross profit or loss as evidenced by tax receipts, sales slips or other documents. Notification of these burns must be sent to the Air District prior to burning.

Forest management fires are also categorized as agricultural fires. These fires are set for the purpose of removing forest debris and for forest management and must be set or allowed by a public fire official having jurisdiction. Forest management fires are limited to a period beginning November 1, 2009, and ending April 30, 2010. Notification of these burns must be sent to the Air District prior to burning.

For additional information about orchard pruning and attrition and forest management requirements at the Air District, please call Air Quality Specialist Janet Simon at (415) 749-4780.

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.

Under Air District policy, permissive BURN days will not be declared when a *Winter Spare the Air Alert* is in effect. 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. 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.

###