



NEWS

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Permissive burn period begins for Range Management

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is announcing that the open burning season for Range Management fires will begin on Thursday, July 1, 2010, and will run through April 30, 2011.

Range management fires are set to remove unwanted vegetation from public or private lands where animals such as horses, cattle and sheep graze and feed. The range management fires must be necessary to maintain and continue the grazing of animals as a gainful occupation.

Range Management fires must be set or allowed by the public fire official with local jurisdiction. Brush to be burned must be treated at least six months prior to burning, if determined to be technically feasible by the State Director of Forestry or public fire official. Unwanted trees over six inches in diameter must be felled prior to burning and dried for a minimum of six months.

Range Management fires that are expected to exceed 10 acres in size or burn-pile vegetation cleared or generated from more than 10 acres of land, are regulated as Wildland Vegetation Management fires and are subject to the prescribed burning requirements in Air District Regulation 5, sections 401.15 and 408.

Open burning is regulated because of its impact on air quality. Certain fires for agricultural purposes, flood control, fire training and the prevention of fire hazards, among other purposes, are allowed, many of them 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) is available 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 is the regional agency chartered with protecting air quality in the Bay Area. For more information, visit www.baaqmd.gov.

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