



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Open burning season for double crop stubble ends; seasons for fall 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 Friday, August 31, 2012.

Permissible burn seasons for fall marsh management and for stubble and straw will begin Saturday, September 1, 2012.

The fall open burning season for marsh management fires runs from September 1, 2012, through October 15, 2012. Marsh management fires are 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, 2012, and runs through December 31, 2012. These fires must be deemed necessary and must be set or allowed by the local public fire official. All straw and vegetation to be burned must be dry and fires are subject to burn acreage limitations.

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 when weather conditions are favorable, 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, based on weather conditions, 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 (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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