



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Permissive burn period begins for range management fires

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is announcing that the open burning season for range management fires will begin on Wednesday, July 1, and will run through April 30, 2016.

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

Range management fires are set to remove unwanted vegetation from public or private lands where commercially raised animals such as horses, cattle and sheep graze and feed. Range management fires are set or allowed by the public fire official with local jurisdiction. Brush to be burned must have been felled, crushed or uprooted with mechanical equipment, or dried, at least six months prior to burning, if this is determined to be 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 fires disposing of burn-pile vegetation cleared or generated from treating 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. Prospective burners should also check with their local fire agencies or CAL FIRE for local permitting and fire safety requirements.

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 for smoke dispersion, 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 nine-county Bay Area region, 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/rules. 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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