



NEWS

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Permissive burn periods for crop replacement and flood debris fires open

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is announcing the open burning seasons for crop replacement and flood debris fires will begin on Saturday, October 1.

Under Air District policy, permissive burn days will not be declared when a *Spare the Air Alert* is in effect or when the region is experiencing significant smoke impacts from wildfires.

A crop replacement fire is an agricultural fire set for the purpose of establishing an agricultural crop on previously uncultivated land or in a location that formerly contained another crop. The permissive burn period for these fires lasts from October 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017.

Any crop replacement fire that takes place on previously uncultivated land exceeding 10 acres in size, or that burns piled material generated from more than 10 acres, is subject to the prescribed burning requirements in the Air District's Regulation 5, Sections 401.15 and 408. These requirements include Air District approval of a smoke management plan prior to burning and receipt of an acreage burning allocation from the Air District prior to ignition on the day of the burn.

A flood debris fire is also categorized as an agricultural fire and is subject to the same drying conditions. These fires are set for the purpose of removing wood and vegetation debris deposited by floodwaters on agricultural land. Flood debris fires are limited to a period beginning October 1, 2016, and ending May 31, 2017.

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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