

 <p>BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT</p>	<p><b>COMPLIANCE &amp; ENFORCEMENT DIVISION</b></p>	<p>Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)</p> <hr/> <p>Reg. 5 – Marsh Management Fires</p>
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**Where can I find the Smoke Management Plan (SMP) form for marsh burns?**

The SMP form with instructions can be found on the District website at [www.baaqmd.gov/enf/forms/index.htm](http://www.baaqmd.gov/enf/forms/index.htm). The form and instructions are in Adobe format, so you will need to copy and fill out.

**Who reviews the SMP?**

SMP is first reviewed by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG). This process takes two weeks for review. After initial review and certification is completed, the plans are mailed by DFG to the District.

**When should a SMP for Marsh burns be submitted to the District?**

The District must receive the SMP for review at least 30 days prior to burning in order to issue an acreage burning allocation. The SMP must include a signed certification from the DFG that the proposed burning is necessary. The SMP must also include three (3) copies of a detailed property map.

**What phone number do I call in order to initiate an acreage forecast?**

Marsh burners must call **(415) 749-4915** by 12:00 p.m. the day before their intended burn to initiate an acreage forecast from meteorology.

**What phone number do I need to call in order to receive an acreage allocation?**

Marsh burners must call **(415) 749-4600** between 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. the day of their intended burn to get acreage allocation. No messages are accepted – you must get verbal allocation.

**What phone number do I need to call after the burn date?**

Marsh burners must call **(415) 749-4600** line by 12:00 p.m. the day after their burn to give the amount of acres actually burned.

**Why can't burning begin before 10:00 a.m. or go beyond 3:00 p.m.?**

It's basically the same rationale to minimize potential adverse smoke impacts on populated areas by optimizing smoke dispersal. Before 10:00 a.m., smoke can be trapped in a shallow inversion layer of air near the ground. After 10:00 a.m., heating by the sun deepens this layer and allows better vertical mixing.

After 3:00 p.m. restriction provides better smoke dispersion by preventing burning when weak inversions begin to develop in late afternoon.