



NEWS

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Open Burning Seasons for Orchard Pruning and Forest Management Begin

The agricultural season for fires set to remove forest debris and for disposing of periodic pruning and attrition losses from fruit and nut trees, vineyards and cane fruits both began Tuesday, November 1, 2005, according to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

The open burn season runs from November 1, 2005 through April 30, 2006, and any fires set for Orchard Pruning or Forest Management must be set or authorized by the appropriate fire official. All burners conducting agricultural burns within the Bay Area must submit a burn notification to the Air District prior to burning.

Although certain fires are allowed during the appropriate burn season, each day of the year is designated as either a **BURN** or a **NO BURN** day. On days when air pollution generated by open burning would be minimized by favorable weather conditions, the Air District designates it a **BURN** day.

Allowed fires can only take place on a BURN day. Any person seeking open burning authorization must check for daily burn status prior to burning. **BURN/NO BURN DAYS ARE FORECASTED BY 3 PM** for the following day. The information is available on the Air District's toll-free number at (1-800-435-7247) and on the website at www.baaqmd.gov – follow the links under Air Quality Status.”

Open burning rules apply to the entire Bay Area, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, southwestern Solano and southern Sonoma counties. Copies of the regulation and notification forms can be downloaded at www.baaqmd.gov. To register complaints about illegal burning or other odor problems, call the District's 24-hour complaint line at 1-800-334-ODOR. For additional information regarding Orchard Pruning and/or Forest Management, please contact Janet Simon, Air Quality Specialist, at (415) 749-4780.

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