



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Permissive burn season for flood debris fires closes, double crop stubble season begins

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is announcing that the permissible burn season for flood debris fires within the Bay Area closes on Wednesday, May 31. The permissible burn season for double crop stubble begins Thursday, June 1.

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

The permissible burn season for double crop stubble applies to agricultural fires set to dispose of grain stubble from land where both grain and vegetable crops are harvested during the same calendar year. The season runs from June 1 through August 31.

Double crop stubble fires must be permitted by the local public fire official having jurisdiction and must be deemed necessary to remove the grain stubble and straw before a field vegetable crop can be planted. No fires shall take place before 10 a.m., and all material to be burned must be free of visible surface moisture. Prospective burners should 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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