



NEWS RELEASE

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Permissive burn periods for orchard pruning and attrition fires and forest management fires open

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is announcing that the open burning seasons for orchard pruning and attrition fires and for forest management fires will begin on Thursday, November 1. The permissive burn periods for both types of fires last through April 30, 2019.

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

Orchard pruning and attrition fires are agricultural fires set for the purpose of disposing of periodic prunings or attrition losses from fruit trees, nut trees, vineyards and cane fruits. These fires are limited to materials grown on-site and must be set or allowed by the public fire official having jurisdiction. Items like feed or fertilizer containers, finished lumber, and plastic or rubber products are not allowed to be burned. These fires are necessary to maintain and continue the growing of fruit trees, vineyards and cane fruits in productive croplands. Notification of these burns and notification fee payments must be sent to the Air District prior to burning.

Forest management fires are set for the purpose of removing forest debris and for other forest-related activities, such as timber operations and forest protection practices. They must be set or allowed by a public fire official having jurisdiction. Notification of these burns and notification fee payments must be made to the Air District prior to burning.

Forest management fires that are expected to exceed 10 acres in size, or to burn piled vegetation from more than 10 acres of land, are regulated as wildland vegetation management fires and are allowed year-round. These cannot be set without a smoke management plan, which must be submitted to the Air District 30 days in advance of the planned burn and must be approved. An acreage burning allocation must also be received from the Air District each day before the start of any fire.

Prospective burners must also check with their local fire agencies and Cal Fire for local permitting and fire safety requirements. Cal Fire units may have additional restrictions in place, so please contact the [local Cal Fire station](#) in your community.

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

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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](#) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

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