

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 1, 2020 CONTACT: Aaron Richardson - 415.749.4900

Permissive burn period begins for range management fires

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is announcing that the open burning season for range management fires will begin on Wednesday, July 1, and will run through April 30, 2021.

Open burning is allowed in the Bay Area for agricultural purposes or for natural resource management. Many open burning fires reduce the risk of wildfires in the region, by eliminating combustible vegetation.

Open burning is only allowed when weather conditions are favorable and air pollution levels are not expected to be high. Most types of open burning can only take place during specified periods throughout the year, on specified BURN days.

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

Range management fires are agricultural fires set to remove unwanted vegetation from where commercially raised animals such as horses, cattle and sheep graze and feed. Requirements for range management fires are outlined on the Air District's Open Burning Information web page.

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 <u>local Cal Fire station</u> in your community.

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 <u>Bay Area Air Quality Management District</u> is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, and <u>YouTube</u>.

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