

2009 BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT BURNING REGULATIONS

The Bay Area Air District allows certain types of “open burning” fires on “Permissive Burn” days, when the agency determines that weather patterns will keep smoke from creating unhealthy conditions for the general public. An agricultural fire is an open burning fire used for the purpose of initiating, continuing or maintaining agriculture as a gainful occupation. Fuels are limited to materials grown on the site and shall not include feed or fertilizer containers, finished or treated wood, plastic or rubber products, plumage, hides, fur, offal or fecal material or refuse from plant or animal processing.

You ***cannot burn landscaping debris and cuttings***, garden trimmings, plants, grass, leaves, tree branches, or any residential or backyard waste.

Do not burn before 10:00 am. Fires must be managed to ensure that the burning material ***does not produce smoke after sunset***.

The material to be burned must be dried for at least 60 days. For orchard pruning and attrition fires, when pruning is done between February 15 and April 30 for integrated pest management purposes, grapevines and branches less than 6 inches in diameter must be dried for 15 days.

Pile size is limited to a base area of 25 square yards and the height shall be at least 2/3 of the average width of the pile. The size limit for a dome shaped pile is one with a diameter of 17 feet with a height of 11 feet; the volume of a pile this size is 68 cubic yards.

Before burning, a Prior Notification Form, available on the Air District’s website (see below), must be sent to the District via FAX (415) 928-0338 or mail. On the planned burn date call the 24-hour Burn Status Recording at 1-800-792-0787 to determine if it is a Permissive Burn Day.

Form “A” is for Disease and Pest, Crop Replacement, Flood Debris, and other types of allowable fires.

Form “B” is for Vineyard or Orchard Pruning and Attrition. These agricultural fires are set for the purpose of disposal of periodic prunings and attrition losses from fruit trees, nut trees, vineyards and cane fruits. These fires are limited to a period beginning November 1 and ending April 30; however, upon the determination of the District the period may be extended to no later than June 30 if there has been heavy winter rainfall.

Fires set for the disposal of uprooted grapevines is considered a Crop Replacement fire IF the new crop will be a different varietal of grape.

Form “C” is for Hazard Reduction. These fires are set for the purpose of preventing or reducing a fire hazard. Fuel materials include natural vegetation or native growth cleared away to create or maintain a firebreak around any building or structure to reduce the risk of a wildfire.

Web link to Reg. 5

<http://www.baaqmd.gov/dst/regulations/index.htm#reg5>

Web link to Prior Notification Forms

<http://www.baaqmd.gov/enf/forms/index.htm#openburning>

If you have any questions regarding Regulation 5, please contact the District at 415-749-4979, and the local inspector will call you back.