



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

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Gregory R. Clark
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

MEMORANDUM

To: Napa County Agriculture Industry	From: Greg Clark <i>Greg Clark</i>
Date: December 6, 2017	Re: Agricultural Burns

Now is the time that growers may choose to conduct agricultural burns for crop replacement or pruning and attrition. [Notification](#) and appropriate payments must be made to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). Growers should also notify their local fire jurisdiction and see if any burn permits are required.

It is important that growers follow the burn protocols in the Napa Valley Grapegrowers' Best Practices for Low Smoke Agricultural Burning pamphlets that are available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Growers must evaluate the conditions at each burn site relative to proper burn pile preparation, wind speed and direction, potential inversion layers, and other possible factors to conduct a burn with minimal impact to the environment and those people on surrounding properties. And even if BAAQMD considers it a permissive burn day, burns should not be initiated until all conditions are assessed so the burn will have the least amount of adverse impacts as possible.

Keep in mind as well, that there are alternatives to burning that can be considered, these may include:

- Chipping/grinding plant material and disking the soil
- Chipping/grinding plant material for composting on-site or at a facility licensed to conduct composting or
- Removing all waste material and transportation to a facility capable of handling it properly

During this open burn period, growers are not required to contact the Agricultural Commissioner's Office to obtain a Disease and Pest Permit. Growers must simply follow all of the BAAQMD notification, burn site and payment protocols for crop replacement or pruning and attrition burns and be in contact with their local fire jurisdiction.

Finally, it is vital to be aware that Napa County residents will likely be concerned about any burns following our recent devastating wildfires in Northern California. Please be considerate, cautious and responsible when conducting agricultural burns.