



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Permissive burn period for Marsh Management extended through April 15

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has announced that the spring burn season for Marsh Management fires will be extended through Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

The open burning season for Marsh Management fires officially runs from February 1 through March 31, 2009. However, due to heavy winter rainfall in February, the Air District is extending the burn season this spring.

Marsh management fires are set for the purpose of improving marshland for wildlife habitat. All marsh management fires must be deemed necessary by the California Department of Fish and Game. No fire is allowed on a given piece of land more than once in any two-year period, and no more than 100 acres of any property may be burned in a single day. Marsh management fires also require an Air District-approved Smoke Management Plan, as well as a daily acreage burning allocation from the Air District.

Marsh burners must call (415) 749-4915 by 12:00 noon on the day before the intended burn and leave a message with the property name and acreage amount to be burned. This is in addition to the existing requirement that burners call (415) 749-4600 between 8:30 AM and 11:30 AM on the morning of the planned burn and prior to ignition to receive their acreage allocation.

These fires are not allowed before 10:00 AM or after 3:00 PM, nor can any additional material be added to existing fires after 3:00 PM. The next marsh management burn period runs September 1 - October 15, 2009.

The Air District's open burning regulation (Regulation 5) can be downloaded at www.baaqmd.gov. Follow the link to "Open Burn Status" under "Air Status / Technical Data." Open burn information is also available on the Air District's toll-free number at 1-800-HELP AIR (435-7247). For additional information, please call Janet Simon, Air Quality Specialist, at 415-749-4780.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is the public agency that regulates stationary sources of air pollution in the nine Bay Area counties. For more information, visit www.baaqmd.gov.

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