



NEWS

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Permissive burn periods for Crop Replacement and Flood Debris fires open

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has announced that the open burning seasons for Crop Replacement and Flood Debris fires will begin on Thursday, October 1, 2009.

A crop replacement fire is an agricultural fire set for the purpose of establishing an agricultural crop in a location that formerly contained another crop or is on previously uncultivated land. The permissive burn period for these fires lasts from October 1, 2009, through April 30, 2010. Any crop replacement for the purpose of establishing an agricultural crop on previously uncultivated land exceeding 10 acres in size, or any vegetation cleared or generated from more than 10 acres of land, is subject to the prescribed burning requirements in the Air District's Regulation 5, Sections 401.15 and 408. These requirements include Air District approval of a smoke management plan prior to burning, and receipt of an acreage burning allocation from the Air District prior to ignition on the day of the burn.

A flood debris fire is also categorized as an agricultural fire. These fires are set for the purpose of removing wood and vegetation debris deposited by floodwaters on agricultural land. Flood debris fires are limited to a period beginning October 1, 2009, and ending May 31, 2010.

For additional information about crop replacement and flood debris requirements at the Air District, please call Air Quality Specialist Janet Simon at (415) 749-4780.

Open burning is regulated because of its potential impact on air quality. Certain fires for agricultural purposes, flood control, fire training, and the prevention of fire hazards, among other purposes, are allowed during specified periods 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. Under Air District policy, permissive BURN days will not be declared when a *Winter Spare the Air Alert* is in effect. Open burning requirements apply to the entire nine-county Bay Area, 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) can be downloaded at www.baaqmd.gov. Select "Rules and Regulations" in the drop-down menu under the "Work" portal. 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 public agency that regulates stationary sources of air pollution in the nine Bay Area counties.

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