



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 19, 2012

CONTACT: Ralph Borrmann
415.749.4900

Permissive burn season closes for stubble and straw fires

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is announcing that the permissible burn season for stubble and straw fires within the Bay Area closes on Monday, December 31, 2012.

Open burning is regulated because of its impact on air quality. Certain fires for agricultural purposes, flood control, fire training and the prevention of fire hazards, among other purposes, are allowed when weather conditions are favorable, many of them 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) is available at www.baaqmd.gov. Click on the "Business" portal, and select "Rules and Regulations" as the first link under the "Stay in Compliance" header at the top of the second column. 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 (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

###