



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 24, 2016

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Permissive burn period opens for marsh management fires

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is announcing the spring open burning season for marsh management fires begins Tuesday, March 1.

Under Air District policy, permissive BURN days will not be declared when a *Spare the Air Alert* is in effect.

Marsh management fires are set for the purpose of improving marshland for wildlife habitat. The open burning season for marsh management runs from March 1 through April 15. All marsh management fires must be deemed necessary by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. No fire is allowed on any 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. Prior to burning, marsh management fires require an Air District-approved Smoke Management Plan, payment of an open burning operation fee based on the proposed acreage to be burned and receipt of a daily acreage burning allocation from the Air District.

Marsh burners must call 415-749-4915 by 12 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 and 11:30 a.m. on the morning of the planned burn prior to ignition to receive their acreage allocation, based on the day's weather forecast.

These fires are not allowed before 10 a.m. or after 3 p.m. The burner must not add material to an existing fire or allow the flame front of an existing fire to burn after 3 p.m. The next marsh management burn period runs from September 1 through October 15, 2016.

Prospective burners should also check with their local fire agencies or CAL FIRE for local permitting and fire safety requirements.

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 for smoke dispersion, 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.

Open burning requirements apply to the nine-county Bay Area region, 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/rules. 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.

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