



January 22, 2007

Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District
1947 Galileo Court, Ste. 103; Davis, CA 95618

BURN ADVISORY

Agricultural and Residential Yard Burn Program Guidelines

The purpose of this advisory is to remind all persons who conduct open burning within the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (District) of the rules and regulations of the agricultural burn program. This advisory is being sent partly in response to complaints the District has received regarding early/late burns, excessive smoke and illegal materials being ignited. The rules apply to all persons who conduct, or allow to be conducted on their property; residential yard burns and/or open burning for agricultural operations; range improvement; wildlife habitat improvement and/or wildland vegetation management.

Burn Permits:

All burning, except for residential yard burns, requires a permit from the District.

Burn Days:

All burns, including residential yard burns, are **only** allowed on burn days as declared by the District. To check if it is a burn day call the Agricultural Burn (Ag Burn) line at 530-757-3660 or 800-246-3660 on the day you wish to burn (usually by 9 a.m.). The recorded message will state the burn status and the daily codeword. You must call the Ag Burn Line before contacting the local fire district or county fire control.

Burn Hours:

Burn hours are restricted to ensure a minimum impact on air quality and the local population. Later morning burn hours, as specified below, allow the sun to evaporate the dew and warm the ground, lifting the inversion lid so the smoke will rise. Smoke hugs the ground in the evening as the sun goes down and temperatures and the inversion lid drop, causing a potential for the smoke to remain in the area until the sun has warmed the ground the next day. Burn hours from September to April are reduced due to shorter daylight hours. Ignition before or after allowed burn hours is illegal, as is adding additional materials to an existing fire.

The burn hours, as dictated by the Sacramento Valley Air Basin Smoke Management Plan, are:

- Field Stubble - No ignition before 10 a.m. or after 5 p.m.
 - From September 15 through April 1, no field crops are to be ignited before 10 a.m. or after 3 p.m.
- All other burns - No ignition before 8 a.m. or after 5 p.m., or one hour before sunset, whichever is earlier.

For more information, you can view the Sacramento Valley Air Basin Smoke Management Plan through a link on our website at www.ysaqmd.org on the Burn Programs page under the heading Forms & Information.

Material Preparation:

Material to be burned must be

- Free of non-agricultural materials
- Free of dirt, soil and surface moisture

- Arranged so as to allow air to circulate freely to improve combustion
- Dried for at least the minimum drying periods:
 - Large stumps and branches must be dried for 30 days after being felled.
 - Prunings and small branches must be dried long enough to ensure rapid burning while minimizing smoke.
 - Rice fields must be dried at least 3 days for spread straw and 10 days for rowed straw.
 - Rice straw must be able to pass the “crackle test” before being burned, meaning the rice straw must make an audible “crackle” when it is bent sharply. Several samples must be tested, including some from under the straw mat.

Residential Yard Burns:

A residential yard is defined as any property, not located in an incorporated city, which contains living quarters and is not used in commercial operations. Persons wanting to conduct residential yard burns **must** have approval of the local fire district on the day of the burn.

Burn barrels and burning of household garbage, old or treated wood or lumber are NOT allowed. Only dry vegetative material from your immediate property can be burned.

Penalties:

State law and District rules provide for substantial penalties to persons found to be in violation of open burning regulations, which include but are not limited to illegal material, smoke nuisance and burning outside of the burn hours. The District reserves the right to order an illegal or out of control fire to be extinguished. In addition to any penalty, a person may also be responsible for any cost incurred when a fire control agency puts out a fire.

Please take the steps necessary to minimize smoke and be sure that your smoke does not impact a populated area or become a public nuisance, as you will be held responsible. Be aware of changing wind speed and direction and extinguish any fires that may cause a fire hazard or smoke impact.

If you have questions regarding this advisory, please contact Dave Smith at (530) 757-3662, or toll-free within the (530), (916) and (707) area codes at (800) 287-3650.