

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
REGULATORY COMPLIANCE DIVISION

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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Topic: Burn Day Determination

Distribution: All Policy Holders

The Air Resources Board's Meteorological Division determines and designates, from meteorological data, the days when agricultural burning shall be permitted or prohibited within each air basin.

For the purpose of designating "Burn Days", the South Central Coast Air Basin is divided into three meteorological sectors. These sectors are separated by elevation and topography.

Sector 35 is that portion of the air basin with elevations exceeding 3000 feet above sea level. Sector 36 is that portion of the air basin north of the Santa Ynez Mountain ridge with elevations below 3000 feet. Sector 37 is that portion of the air basin in the south facing coastal plain with elevations below 3000 feet.

The Air Resources Board provides a tape recorded message at (916) 445-0747 which informs the caller of the burn day determinations for various air basins. The burn day determination notice is available either by 8:00 am of the day designated, or after 3:00 pm of the day prior to the day being designated. Those parts of the recorded message which are applicable to Santa Barbara County are the designations for all sectors of the South Central Coast Air Basin sectors above and below 3000 feet and numbered 35, 36 and 37 (see map).

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff Public Safety Dispatch is responsible for transmitting the Burn Day designation to the fire protection agencies and the APCD by telephone.

OBTAINING A BURN DAY FORECAST:

To enable prescribed burns to be planned, the Air Resources Board (ARB) will provide a burn-day forecast.

To obtain a burn day forecast the APCD, a fire protection agency, or the holder of a Burn Permit must call the ARB ten (10) days prior to the proposed burn. They must submit the necessary information to the duty meteorologist for the proposed burn to be placed in the forecast queue. This information must also be submitted to the ARB in written form. The required data elements include:

1. Name of burn

2. Location of burn
 - A. Township
 - B. Range
 - C. Section
3. Elevation
 - A. High
 - B. Low
 - C. Mean
4. Number of acres of burn
5. Percent of material crushed or treated
6. Name of nearest town
7. Distance to nearest town from the burn
8. Direction of nearest town from the burn
9. Date of burn
10. Contact person
11. Phone number of contact person

In turn, the ARB Meteorological Section will provide the applicant with a 72-hour, 48-hour, and 24-hour forecast. It is possible for the forecast to continue to be renewed until a permissive burn day is forecast. The ARB will continue to provide a rolling 72-hour, 48-hour, and 24-hour Burn-Day forecast until the burn is conducted or canceled (provided that the delay is based upon meteorological reasons). If a proposed burn is canceled and rescheduled, the applicant must re-submit the forecast request for the new date. For further information regarding burn day designations and/or forecasts call the ARB duty meteorologist at (916) 322-6014 or (916) 445-0954.