

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT  
REGULATORY COMPLIANCE DIVISION

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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Topic: Agricultural Burning - Agricultural Wastes

Distribution: All Policy Holders

This policy and procedure provides guidance in the enforcement of APCD rules relating to prescribed burns used in the disposal of agricultural wastes. It is the policy of the APCD to allow agricultural burning as regulated under Rule 401 and Article 3, Chapter 3, Part 4, Division 26 of the California Health and Safety Code.

APPLICABILITY

The provisions and exemptions provided in agricultural burning regulations apply to the open outdoor burning of unwanted or unsalable materials produced wholly from agricultural operations directly related to:

1. The growing and harvesting of crops or raising of animals if such crops or animals are grown or raised for the primary purpose of making a profit or for livelihood,
2. The eradication or prevention of disease and/or pests from agricultural operations,
3. The conducting of agricultural research, and
4. The instruction of agricultural techniques in an educational institution

Agricultural wastes include grass, weeds, or brush growing in or adjacent to fields used in the growing of crops or animals, paper fertilizer and pesticide sacks or containers when such sacks or containers have been emptied in the field, and cardboard vegetable cartons damaged in the process of packaging vegetables in the field. The disposal of Russian Thistle (Tumbleweed) is included within this "weed" category when said weeds are being burned within the scope of agricultural activities.

WHAT IS NOT AGRICULTURAL WASTE?

Petroleum products, demolition debris, tires, tar, wood pallets, yard trimmings, household trash, almost anything processed or manufactured, not produced in an agricultural operation. The burning of tires, rubbish, tar paper, plastic, construction debris and waste foreign to land being cleared for agricultural use is prohibited.

REQUIREMENTS

The following conditions apply to the burning of agricultural wastes:

1. A permit to burn must be obtained from a public fire department, fire protection agency or other agency authorized to issue such permits by the Air Resources Board. The disposal of Russian Thistle requires "authorization" by an appropriate fire department or agency, which may or may not take the form of a permit.
2. Agricultural burning is permitted only on days designated as permissive burn days by the Air Resources Board (Policy and Procedure VI.A.1, Burn Day Determination). The Air Pollution Control Officer may permit agricultural burning on a No-Burn day if denial of such permission would threaten the applicant with imminent and substantial economic loss. APCD policies regarding permits to conduct burning on days designated as No-Burn days are outlined in the "Burning on a No-Burn Day", Policy and Procedure VI.A.2.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 41809 of the Health and Safety Code, it is APCD policy that Russian Thistle (Salsoa Kali) may be burned on No-Burn days in the Cuyama Valley area of Santa Barbara County and that said burning may be conducted without obtaining permission from the APCD to burn on a No-Burn day.

3. Materials to be burned must be arranged so as to burn with a minimum of smoke, be loosely stacked to allow maximum drying and provide good combustion.
4. Materials to be burned must be free of dirt and moisture which would hinder complete combustion.
5. Prior to burning, materials must be dried for the minimum periods listed below:
  - A. Six (6) weeks for trees and large branches
  - B. Three (3) weeks for prunings and small branches
  - C. Ten (10) days for wastes from field crops
6. Use an approved ignition device that does not produce black smoke, such as butane, propane, LPG or diesel oil burners. All ignition devices using the following burning agents will be approved:
  - Gasoline/diesel
  - Propane/butane
  - Phosphorus
  - Ethylene glycol/potassium permanganate

The following are examples of devices using the above agents:

- |                      |                              |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| - helicopter torches | - orchard torches            |
| - propane torches    | - drip torches               |
| - flame throwers     | - jellied petroleum devices  |
| - diesel sprayers    | - commercial grenade devices |
| - common fuses       | - matches                    |

Any device not listed above must be approved for use by the APCO prior to its application or use. Igniting tires or pouring diesel

fuel on the materials are NOT acceptable ignition methods!

7. Agricultural burning will not commence prior to sunrise, and no additional waste material will be added to any fire after two hours before sunset. Any time limits stipulated within the Burn Permit must be strictly adhered to.
8. All fires shall be thoroughly extinguished before being left by the attendant(s). Adequate provisions should be made for the immediate extinguishment of the fire should it threaten to spread out of control.
9. Regardless of permit, no fires shall be started any time when the weather conditions are such that it would be unsafe to burn or cause a hazard to vehicular traffic flow.

