

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT  
REGULATORY COMPLIANCE DIVISION

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policy No. VI.B  
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Topic: Agricultural Burning - Forest Management

Distribution: All Policy Holders

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

APPLICABILITY

The provisions and exemptions provided in the Forest Management regulations apply to the use of open fires as a part of forest management practices to remove debris from: timber operations, silvicultural practices, forest protection practices, and in limited applications; disease and pest prevention, and wildlife and game habitat improvement activities.

REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements apply to all prescribed Forest Management Burning operations:

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. A list of agencies authorized to issue burning permits is provided as Appendix A to Policy and Procedure VI.

With few exceptions, most Forest Management Burning in Santa Barbara County will be conducted by the U.S. Forest Service or through a cooperative agreement or contract involving a public agency. The public agencies having authority to burn lands are the U.S. Forest Service, Santa Barbara County Fire Department, Santa Barbara City Fire Department, Carpinteria/Summerland Fire Department, Lompoc City Fire Department, Santa Maria City Fire Department, Vandenberg Air Force Base Fire Department, and California Department of Parks and Recreation.

2. Forest Management Burning is permitted only on days designated as permissive burn days by the Air Resources Board (refer to Policy and Procedure VI.C., Burn Day Determination). The Air Pollution Control Officer may permit agricultural burning operations 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 are outlined in the "Burning on a No-Burn Day", Policy and Procedure VI.A.2.

3. Materials to be burned must be free of Non-Agricultural materials. Materials must not contain tar, tar paper, petroleum wastes, tires, plastics, demolition debris, treated wood, trash or household garbage.
4. Materials to be burned must be free of dirt and moisture which would hinder complete combustion.
5. 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.
6. Prior to burning, materials should be dried for the minimum recommended periods listed below:
  - a) Six (6) weeks for trees and large branches 3" to 8" in diameter
  - b) Four (4) weeks for small trees and branches 1" to 3" in diameter
  - c) Three (3) weeks for small branches and materials ¼" to 1" in diameter
  - d) Ten (10) days for very fine materials less than ¼"
7. Forest Management burns shall be ignited as rapidly as practicable within applicable fire control restrictions.
8. 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 ignitions methods!

**NOTE:** Any open burning which meets the definition of "Wildland Vegetation Management Burning", as defined in Rule 401.B., shall be conducted in compliance with the requirements of Rule 401.D. even though such burning may also be conducted under another provision of Rule 401 or any other APCD rule (e.g., Rule 312 or Rule 313). Forest Management, Range Improvement and other agricultural burning not meeting the definition of Wildland Vegetation Management burning do not need to comply with the requirements of Rule 401.D.