

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
REGULATORY COMPLIANCE DIVISION

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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Topic: Agricultural Burning - Water Delivery Systems Maintenance

Distribution: All Policy Holders

This policy and procedure provides guidance in the enforcement of APCD rules relating to prescribed burns used in the maintenance of water delivery systems supporting agricultural operations. 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 agricultural materials which have grown or collected within irrigation/water delivery systems. Burning of these materials is necessary to clear and/or maintain as free flowing, water systems which directly support the growing and harvesting of crops or raising of animals.

Agricultural materials include grass, weeds (including Russian Thistle), brush, and trees growing in or around irrigation ditches or other elements of a water delivery system.

WHAT CANNOT BE BURNED?

Petroleum products, demolition debris, tires, tar, wood pallets, yard trimmings, household trash, almost anything processed or manufactured, not produced in an agricultural operation are not to be burned. The burning of tires, rubbish, tar paper, plastic, construction debris and waste foreign to land being cleared for agricultural use is prohibited. An alternative method of disposal must be arranged for the above items.

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. A list of agencies authorized to issue burning permits is provided as Appendix A to Policy and Procedure VI.
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 District to burn on a No-Burn day.

3. Materials to be burned must be, to the greatest extent possible, 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, to the greatest extent possible, free of dirt and moisture which would hinder complete combustion.
5. When possible 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1" in diameter
 - d) Ten (10) days for very fine materials less than $\frac{1}{4}$ "
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:
 - Ethylene glycol/potassium permanganate,
 - gasoline/diesel,
 - propane/butane, and
 - phosphorus
 - 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.

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.

