

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT  
REGULATORY COMPLIANCE DIVISION

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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Topic: Non-Agricultural Burning - Fire Hazard Abatement

Distribution: All Policy Holders

This policy and procedure document provides guidance for APCD personnel in the implementation of APCD Rule 313, Public Resources Code Section 4426, Santa Barbara County Fire Code Chapter 15, and Health and Safety Code Sections 13055 and 41801. This Rule allows the use of open outdoor fires to mitigate fire hazards where there is an immediate need for and no reasonable alternative to burning.

APPLICABILITY The provisions and exemptions provided in the open burning regulations apply to the use of prescribed burns used to reduce the fuels available and abate the resulting potential for fire presented by the growth of trees, vines, and bushes in the areas where there is a threat to life or property.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Any person or agency conducting a fire hazard reduction burn must first obtain a burn permit from the applicable fire protection agency.
2. All fire hazard reduction burns are subject to conditional approval by the applicable fire protection agency. Applicants for burn permits must agree to abide by permit conditions designed to mitigate air pollution and reduce the potential for the fire to escape control. Failure to abide by any and all conditions stipulated on the permit is grounds for permit revocation by the permit issuing agency.
3. Fire hazard reduction burning may be conducted only on days designated by the Air Resources Board as permissive burn days.
4. No burning shall be permitted during any fire hazard seasons as are determined and declared by the County of Santa Barbara Fire Chief.
5. No burning shall be conducted on any day that the Air Pollution Control Officer determines would likely cause Federal or State air quality standards to be exceeded.
6. No Fire hazard reduction burning shall be permitted on Sundays.
7. Only cuttings from trees, vines or bushes grown on the subject property may be burned for the purpose of eliminating fire hazard. No other materials may be burned.

8. 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.
9. Materials to be burned must be free of dirt and moisture which would hinder complete combustion.
10. 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  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to 1" in diameter
  - d) Ten (10) days for very fine materials less than  $\frac{1}{4}$ "
11. 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

Igniting tires or pouring diesel fuel on the materials are NOT acceptable ignition methods!
12. Fire hazard reduction burns are not exempt from the provisions of the state and District public nuisance rules.
13. You must call your local Fire Department to announce your intention to burn and provide your anticipated start time.