

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT  
REGULATORY COMPLIANCE DIVISION

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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Topic: Non-Agricultural Burning - Residential Dry Vegetation Burns

Distribution: All Policy Holders

This policy and procedure provides guidance in the enforcement of APCD rules relating to open outdoor fires set to dispose of vegetation on residential property. It is the policy of the APCD to allow the setting of these open outdoor fires as regulated under APCD Rule 312 and Health and Safety Code Sections 41804 and 41806, Article 2, Chapter 3, Part 4, Division 26 of the California Health and Safety Code.

APPLICABILITY

Except in the cities of Santa Maria and Lompoc, occupants of one and two family dwellings in the northern portion of Santa Barbara County may use open outdoor fires to dispose of dry leaves, grass clippings, and prunings. The northern zone is defined as all of Supervisorial Districts 4 and 5 and that portion of District 3 which is north of the Santa Ynez Mountain Ridge.

REQUIREMENTS

Residential dry vegetation burning is subject to the following conditions:

1. Any person or agency wishing to burn must first obtain a permit from the applicable fire protection agency.
2. Residential dry vegetation burning shall be conducted on burn days only.
3. Residential dry vegetation burning shall be conducted only in the months of February, May, August, and November.
4. Residential dry vegetation burning is not exempt from the provisions of state or District nuisance regulations.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Materials to be burned must be free of dirt and moisture which would hinder complete combustion.

8. 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  $\frac{1}{4}$ "

9. 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
- propane torches
- flame throwers
- diesel sprayers
- common fuses
- orchard torches
- drip torches
- jellied petroleum devices
- commercial grenade devices
- matches

Igniting tires or pouring diesel fuel on the materials are NOT acceptable ignition methods!

10. You must call your local Fire Department to announce your intention to burn and provide your anticipated start time.