

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT  
REGULATORY COMPLIANCE DIVISION

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policy No. VI.L  
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Topic: Non-Agricultural Burning - Right of Way Burning Operations

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 right-of-way clearings. 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 Section 41807 Article 2, Chapter 3, Part 4, Division 26 of the California Health and Safety Code.

APPLICABILITY

The agencies of Santa Barbara County, incorporated cities, special districts, and public utilities may use open outdoor fires to dispose of dry vegetation for the purpose of clearing right-of-ways in the northern zone. 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

Right-of-way burning is subject to the following conditions:

1. Any agency or utility company which wishes to conduct right-of-way burning must file a petition with the APCD which states that burning is the most reasonable and economic method to dispose of vegetation in the right-of-way.
2. Right-of-way burning shall be conducted on burn days only.
3. The agency or utility company that wishes to conduct right-of-way burning must first obtain a permit from the applicable fire protection agency. A list of agencies authorized to issue burning permits is provided as Appendix A to Policy and Procedure VI.
4. Right-of-way burning is restricted to the geographical regions described in APCD Rule 312.C.1.d.
5. Santa Barbara County may designate private parties to conduct right-of-way burning on land owned or managed by the county.
6. Right-of-way burning is not exempt from the provisions of state or APCD nuisance regulations.
7. Only cuttings from trees, vines or bushes grown on the subject property may be burned. 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 ¼" to 1" in diameter
  - d) Ten (10) days for very fine materials less than ¼"
11. Use an 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. You must call your local Fire Department to announce your intention to burn and provide your anticipated start time.