



Regulation 5: Open Burning

General Open Burn Information

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is the public agency entrusted with regulating stationary sources of air pollution in the nine counties that surround the San Francisco Bay. Fires from open burning produce hundreds of tons of pollutants per year in the Bay Area. Smoke from open burning contains very fine particles which can be inhaled deeply into the lungs and contribute to respiratory problems. To minimize the impact on public health the Air District's Regulation 5 prohibits open burning with the exception of 17 types of fires that are conditionally allowed on designated *Burn* days during predetermined burn periods. The information below summarizes the basic requirements that must be satisfied to conduct a legal open burn.

1. **Prior District Notification** – before burning, a Notification Form must be submitted to the Air District via Fax (415) 928-0338; by mail to BAAQMD, 375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105; or electronically email to: openburn@baaqmd.gov. Upon receipt of a completed Notification form, a fee payment invoice will be sent either to your email or mailing address or by facsimile. Your completed notification form (with the invoice #, invoice date, and the amount due entered in the upper right hand corner) will serve as the fee payment invoice.

Notification Forms can be found on the Air District's website at: <http://baaqmd.gov/openburn>. Twelve of the 17 allowable fires require prior notification (see Reg. 5, Section 406)

Regulation 5 can be found at: <http://www.baaqmd.gov/rules>.

2. **Notification Fee Payment** – before burning, pay required Fee via mail or online.

Mail a check, cashier's check or money order in the invoiced amount to BAAQMD, Attn: Accounting, 375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105. Be sure to include the invoice number on your check.

Online payments can be made using VISA, MasterCard, AMEX, Discover, debit or pre-paid debit cards at: <http://www.baaqmd.gov/payments>.

3. **Material to be burned must be dried at least 60 days prior to ignition.**

Exception - Pruning between February 15 and April 30 for Integrated Pest Management:

- Trees/branches greater than 6 inches in diameter = 30 days;
- Grape vines/branches less than or equal to 6 inches in diameter = 15 days.

4. **Burn only on a Permissive Burn-Day. Call the Burn Status Hotline at 1-800-792-0787; the Burn-Day status is typically available by 3pm the day prior to the planned burn date.**
5. **You cannot burn residential yard waste such as landscaping debris, garden trimmings, leaves, grass, lumber, pressure treated wood, trash or plastics, even if you submit a notification form and pay the notification fee. Burning residential yard waste is prohibited.**
6. **For a domed shaped pile, the maximum pile size allowed measures 17 feet diameter by 11 feet height. A dome pile this size is 68 cubic yards in volume.**
7. **Use proper ignition material, such as drip torches or propane torches. No liquid diesel fuel.**
8. **No burning prior to 10:00 a.m.**
9. **Burn piles cannot produce smoke after sunset. Do not ignite or add material to an existing fire after two hours before sunset.**

Adhering to the requirements above does not guarantee compliance for every situation. Call (415) 749-4979 to contact your local inspector with any questions. Contact your local Fire Authority for any other applicable fire safety ordinances, such as a burn permit.

(Revised 3/2/2017)