

629 Entler Avenue, Suite 15
Chico, CA 95928
(530) 332-9400
(530) 332-9417 Fax



W. James Wagoner
Air Pollution Control Officer
Robert McLaughlin
Asst. Air Pollution Control Officer

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CONTACT: Ursula Parker
(530) 332-9400 ext 104

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS CONDUCTING RESIDENTIAL/DOORYARD BURNING

The Butte County Air Quality Management District (District), in cooperation with local fire protection agencies, provides the following information on residential/dooryard burning requirements as a public service. Residential/dooryard burning refers to the burning of wastes at a residence in the open air and **does not** include burning in fireplaces and wood stoves within the residence.

Requirements are included for all areas of Butte County, including the Cities of Biggs, Chico, Gridley, Oroville, Paradise and areas of Butte County that are within the Lassen and Plumas National Forests. Please note: As of March 1, 2011, new requirements apply to residential burning and fire hazard reduction burning, including burn hours and drying times. Persons burning residential waste should read and keep this summary for future reference. For more information please contact your local Fire Department and/or Butte County Air Quality Management District at 530-332-9400 (or toll-free 855-322-9400).

AIR QUALITY

Burning is allowed only on **Permissible Burn Days**. When air quality conditions can be reasonably forecast for the following day, the residential burn line **332-9407 (or toll free 855-332-9407)** is updated each day for the following day's burn day status. Marginal conditions and other concerns regarding air quality will require that burn day status is not forecast the day before; when those conditions exist, burn day status will be provided the morning of the burn day, no later than 8:45 a.m. Burn day information is also updated on our website and is provided to local radio stations and newspapers. **Do not call your local Fire Department for burn day information.**

Only vegetation can be burned on the property on which it is grown. Transporting vegetation to another location to be burned is prohibited. The use of burn barrels is prohibited unless you live in an exempt area. Two exempt areas exist in Butte County. Please contact the District office for more information regarding the locations of exempt areas. Vegetative waste must meet minimum drying time requirements prior to ignition: vegetative waste greater than six inches in diameter must be allowed to dry for a minimum of thirty days after cutting and/or pruning, and vegetative waste less than or equal to six inches in diameter must dry for a minimum of fifteen days.

The following **cannot be burned**: paper products, dimensional lumber, garbage, tires, trash, plastic, metal, rubber, cotton, wool, petroleum products, paint, other similar smoke or toxic-fume producing items, and fireworks. If the burning is to be conducted on lots less than one acre in size, the burning of poison oak is prohibited.

All vegetation must be dry, not covered with dirt, and loosely stacked to **allow air to circulate freely** so that smoke will be minimized. No burning shall occur when weather conditions cause smoke from the burn to enter onto ANY adjacent residences where there are persons residing such as to create a **nuisance**. Additionally, if burning is conducted on a residential lot less than one acre in size, the following additional requirements apply: the pile size is limited to four feet in diameter and must be located more than twenty-five feet from the nearest occupied dwelling on any adjacent parcel. A ten foot clearance around the burn pile is required and a responsible person must be in attendance with an adequate supply of water to put out the fire if needed. Questions regarding air quality requirements should be directed to the Butte County Air Quality Management District, 332-9400 (toll-free 855-332-9400).

FIRE SAFETY

As noted above, a responsible person must be in attendance at all times and an adequate water supply must be available on site to control the burn pile or potential escapes. Wind speeds must provide for a safe burn. The property owner and any person burning are individually and collectively responsible for all burn regulations. Persons doing the burning will be held liable if the burn escapes their control.

BUTTE COUNTY RESIDENTS IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS:

Responsible fire agencies are:

Butte County Fire Rescue/California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL-FIRE) phone number 538-7111.

U.S. Forest Service District Office at Oroville phone number 534-6500.

U.S. Forest Service District Office at Butte Meadows phone number 873-0580.

Fire Agency Permits are required from May 1 to the end of declared fire season annually (not valid during burn ban, typically July 1 to November 1). No permit is required from the end of the declared fire season to April 30. No fee required. Fire Agency Permits are available at Butte County Fire Stations/CAL Fire, USFS District Office at Oroville, and USFS District Office at Butte Meadows.

Burn Hours: 6:00 am - 11:00 am when burn permits are required. Following the end of the burn season, burn hours are 8:45 am – one hour before sunset.

Pile Size: 4-foot diameter maximum and 10-foot clearance required when burn permits are required.

CITY OF CHICO:

Responsible fire agency is City of Chico Fire Department.

Phone number 897-3400 or 897-4900 (afterhours). No residential/dooryard burning allowed within the City of Chico.

Burning is allowed in the unincorporated areas of Butte County that are located **within the Chico Sphere of Influence** on lots that are .9 acre in size or greater only. No burning is allowed on lots less than .9 acre. A map showing the Chico Sphere of Influence boundaries is posted on the District's website at www.butteairquality.com or District staff can assist in the identification during regular business hours at (530) 332-9400.

CITY OF BIGGS:

Responsible fire agency is City of Biggs Fire Department/California Department of Forestry (CAL-Fire). Phone number 868-5834.

Permits required year round. No fee required. Available at Biggs Fire Station, 434 "B" Street. **Burn Hours** 6:00 am to 11:00 am May 1 through October 31 and 6:00 am to 2:00 pm November 1 through April 30.

Pile Size 4-foot diameter maximum and 10 foot clearance (minimum) is required.

CITY OF GRIDLEY:

Responsible fire agency is City of Gridley Fire Department/California Department of Forestry (CAL-FIRE). Phone number 846-2470.

Permits required year round. No fee required. Available at Butte County/Gridley City Fire Station #74, 47 East Gridley Road.

Burn Hours May 1 – Oct 31 6:00 am to 11:00 am. Nov 1 – April 30 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Pile Size 4 foot diameter maximum and 10 foot clearance (minimum) required.

CITY OF OROVILLE:

Responsible fire agency is City of Oroville Fire Department. Phone number 538-2480. Permits (not Agricultural) valid for one calendar year, except during burn ban (June 1 through October 31 annually). \$11.51 fee, available at Oroville Fire Station, 2055 Lincoln Street, or at Oroville City Hall, 1735 Montgomery Street 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Burn Hours 6:00 am to 11:00 am May 1 until the declaration of the burn ban. Beginning at the end of fire season until May 1, burn hours are 8:45 am to one hour before sunset.

Pile Size: 4-foot diameter maximum and 10-foot clearance required.

Wind Speed No burning if wind speed is measured to be greater than 10 miles per hour and/or if weather conditions make it unsafe.

El Medio Fire Protection District (SOUTH OROVILLE AREA) excluding City of Oroville incorporated area:

Responsible fire agency is El Medio Fire Department. Phone number 533-4484.

Permits required year round, valid for one calendar year, except during burn ban (June 1 through October 31 annually). \$10.00 fee, available at El Medio Fire Station, 3515 Meyers Street, Oroville.

Burn Hours 6:00 am to 11:00 am May 1 to end of declared fire season annually (June 30).

Pile Size 4 foot diameter maximum and 10 foot clearance required.

TOWN OF PARADISE:

Responsible fire agency is Paradise Fire Department. Phone number 872-6206.

Permit Required, Valid during burn season March 1 through May 31 and during a special burn period in the fall, this year from November 14 through December 18, 2011. \$24.64 annual fee, available at Paradise Fire Station Number 1, 767 Birch Street, Monday through Thursday 8:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Permit Conditions; Burning allowed **east of Clark Road 1st-15th** of each burn season month, burning allowed **west of Clark Road 16th-31st** of each burn season month. Burning is allowed both west of and east of Clark Road during the special burn period in the fall.

Burn Hours 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Pile Size 6-foot diameter maximum and 10 foot clearance minimum required.