

**BUTTE COUNTY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (DISTRICT)**

629 Entler Avenue, Suite 15, Chico, CA 95928

2026 CONDITIONAL RICE STRAW BURN PERMIT
(Issued pursuant to Health and Safety (HSC) Code Section 41865(f) et.seq)Website: www.bcaqmd.org Office email to: air@bcaqmd.org

Office Phone: 332-9400 (toll free 1-855-332-9400) Fax: 332-9417

Permit # _____ R

Agricultural Burn Day Status: **332-9406** Harvested Fields Line: **332-9408**

Counter Hours: Tuesday-Friday 7:30am-12pm, 1pm-4:30pm

Applicant/Farm Name _____ Telephone _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Total Planted/Registered Acres (attach rice burn data sheets/field crop registration form)	Burnable Acres (planted acres x 25%)	Fees (assessed per District Rule 507)
		\$3.50/acre billed after field(s) are burned per conditions below
	Base Fee	\$25.00
	Sacramento Valley Air Basin Control Council Fee	\$ 5.00
	Conditional Rice Straw Burning Program Registration Fee	\$60.00
	TOTAL RICE REGISTRATION/PERMIT FEE	\$90.00

THIS CONDITIONAL RICE STRAW BURN PERMIT IS VALID ONLY IF ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ARE MET:

1. The County Agricultural Commissioner has made a countywide finding of disease presence.
2. This permit is valid for the burning of rice fields authorized by the District on a daily basis, up to 25% of the planted acreage per grower, and shall expire on the date indicated below.
3. This burn permit allows burning only on those days when agricultural burning is allowed by the state Air Resources Board or by the District.
4. All allocated acres not burned shall be returned to District staff by 2pm on the day on which allocated for all burning not completed.
5. Pursuant to District Rule 507, burned acreage fees will be billed periodically and must be paid within thirty (30) days of billing date. Burn permits may be suspended for non-payment of fees.
6. This burn permit may be revoked, suspended, or terminated for violation of any condition specified or when determined necessary for public safety by the APCO or his designated deputy.
7. Burn permit holders must comply with local fire protection agency permit requirements. Contact Butte County Fire/CAL-Fire with any questions, 538-7111.
8. No field crop acreage that was harvested prior to September 10th shall be burned during the period from October 1 through November 15, unless justified by the grower and approval is granted by the District.
9. Rice straw is to be ignited only by strip firing into the wind or by backfiring, except under a special permit issued by the District when and where extreme fire hazards are declared by a public fire protection agency to exist, or where crops are determined by the District not to lend themselves to these techniques (per 17 CCR Section 80150(a)(1)).
10. Rice straw to be burned must meet the drying times required as listed on the reverse side of this permit.
11. All waste shall be free of prohibited materials, including, but not limited to tires, plastic, metal, painted/treated lumber, cloth or rubber. The burning of an agricultural commodity such as previously baled rice straw is also prohibited.
12. Unless otherwise specified by the District, ignition hours are: September-February, 10am to 3pm (flames out by 4pm); March- August, 10am to 5pm.
13. A copy of this conditional rice straw burn permit shall be available for inspection at the burn site during any burn operation.
14. The "Right of Entry" as delineated by HSC Section 41510 of Division 26 shall apply at all times. District staff shall not be denied access to burn sites.

I have read and agree to comply with all of the conditions required by this permit. I understand that failure to comply with District Rules and Regulations will subject me to a civil or criminal action, or both. I understand that the issuance of this permit does not relieve me of responsibility to use reasonable and ordinary care to prevent damage to the property of others or injury to persons. I accept responsibility for all burning activities, including smoke impacts, as a result of burning conducted at the above specified burn site location(s) which is (are) under my legal control.

The undersigned hereby acknowledges and agrees that an electronic copy of this signed document shall be enforceable in the same manner as the signed original document.

Signature _____ Title _____

Name Printed _____ Date _____

Issued by _____ Date Issued _____ Expiration Date August 31, 2027

Receipt # _____ Check # _____ Money Order _____ Cash _____ Official Payments _____

INSTRUCTIONS AND PROCEDURES

BURNING AUTHORIZATION:

No person may conduct agricultural burning unless District staff have authorized the burning and allocated the acres for a specific field. The switching of fields without prior approval from the District is prohibited. If burn acres are allocated and the burning is attempted but is not completed, the grower must contact the District at the earliest possible time to return the unused acres. The field will remain in the same position on the list. If a grower does not return unused acres (when no burning was attempted) to the District for reallocation to other growers, the field that was not burned may be dropped to the bottom of the ready to burn list.

The burn day status is updated each day on the agricultural burn line (332-9406) or on the District website (www.bcaqmd.org) by 8:45am. All rice straw burning MUST be authorized by the District's on-duty inspector prior to burning. During the intensive fall rice burn season (**September 1 – December 31, except during periods of rainfall exceeding 0.15 inches per day**) growers will be contacted and allocated burning acres each day following the ready to burn list of harvested fields. **During all other times growers who wish to burn must contact the District at 332-9400 for acreage allocation each day that the grower wishes to burn.** From January through August, the ready to burn list will be used as a prioritization system only if the demand for burn acres exceeds the daily acreage allocation.

DRYING TIMES:

No spread rice straw shall be burned prior to a three-day drying period and no rowed rice straw shall be burned prior to a ten-day drying period, unless the rice straw passes the "crackle test". For rice straw, after 0.15 inches or more of rainfall, a representative sample of the straw must pass the crackle test to be legally burned (17 CCR Section 80150(c)(2) & (3)).

Drying times for rice fields harvested with the "stripper header" method shall be three days after the first frost found on the field and if the straw passes the crackle test, or three days after mowing and spreading or chopping straw, or if the District verifies that the straw is sufficiently dry and passes the crackle test (17 CCR Section 80150(c)(1)).

The crackle test is performed as follows: When checking the field for moisture, a composite sample of straw from under the mat, in the center of the mat, and from different areas of the field shall be taken to ensure a representative sample. A handful of straw from each area will give a good indication. Rice straw is dry enough to burn if a handful of straw selected, as described, crackles when it is bent sharply (per 17 CCR Section 80150(c)(2)).

READY TO BURN LIST:

All persons wanting to burn must notify the District to get on the ready to burn list (ready list) by calling the "Harvested Fields" line at (530) 332-9408. Only fields that have been completely harvested can be placed on the list. Most (not all) burning is allocated on the basis of the list in the order it was reported. All pertinent burn information requested by the District must be provided. Growers must report to the district any rice field(s) that they want to burn that have been chopped.

Prior to allocating acreage, the geographical distribution of acres shall be considered including any burning near roadways, airports, and populated areas when wind directions and other factors are favorable. Ready Acres are defined as follows: A maximum of 25 percent of a district's or county's planted rice acres. Rice fields must have been harvested, passed the drying time and be on a conditional rice burn permit. All other crop residues, in any amount, may be included on the list but only when they are actually ready to be burned.

FIELD SWAPPING AND SPLITTING POLICIES:

Swapping field positions on the ready to burn list, including two (2) or more fields for one (1) field, is allowed provided that:

1. The field must be registered and included in the grower's total acreage listed on the rice burn permit; in accordance with State law, swapping or trading which involves two or more permittees is not allowed.
2. A 10% limit on field size increase exists, i.e., two 60-acre fields could be swapped for a 110-acre field but could not be swapped for a 100-acre field. If the swap results in a net decrease in the amount of acreage at the top of the list to be burned, then the 10% limit would not apply.
3. If more than two (2) fields are involved in the swap, then the largest field involved must assume the lowest list number of all the fields involved. The intent is to keep the system equitable for all growers.
4. Any request for swaps, including office visits and phone calls, should be placed between 1 and 4pm., Monday through Friday. Requests made outside of those hours may not be processed until the next business day.
5. **Costs: A \$25 modification fee for swapping or splitting a field will be charged and will be billed periodically. The fees must be paid within thirty (30) days of billing date. Burn permits may be suspended for non-payment of fees.**