



# Fact Sheet

## Prescribed Burning

Butte County Air Quality  
Management District  
629 Entler Avenue, Suite 15  
Chico, CA 95928  
530.332-9400 or 855.332-9400  
[www.bcaqmd.org](http://www.bcaqmd.org)

### **What Is Prescribed Burning?**

Prescribed burning is the planned application and confinement of fire to wildland fuels on private or public land selected in advance of that application to achieve any of the following objectives: (A) Prevention of high-intensity wildland fires through reduction of the volume and continuity of wildland fuels; (B) Watershed management; (C) Range improvement; (D) Vegetation management; (E) Forest improvement; (F) Wildlife habitat improvement; (G) Air quality maintenance. The planned application of fire may include natural or accidental ignition. Wildland vegetation management burning is defined in the regulation as the use of prescribed burning conducted by a public agency, or through a cooperative agreement or contract involving a public agency, to burn land predominantly covered with chaparral, trees, grass, or standing brush.

### **What Are Rules Regarding Prescribed Burning?**

District Rules require a prescribed burn permit with a map of all proposed burn locations for all types of prescribed burning, which includes broadcast and/or underburning. CAL FIRE or local Fire protection agencies also require a burn permit for this type of burning; please contact your local fire station or Butte County CAL FIRE's main office at (530) 538-7111 with any questions about their requirements.

A Smoke Management Plan shall be required for any proposed range improvement burn, forest management burn, or wildland vegetation management burn, regardless of size, which will occur below a mean sea level (MSL) elevation of 1000 feet; encompasses a land area greater than ten (10) acres; or is estimated to produce more than one (1) ton of particulate matter. The Smoke Management Plan shall be submitted to the District for review and approval **at least 14 days prior to ignition** and shall include the following information: 1) amount of material to be covered by the Smoke Management Plan; 2) location and specific objectives of the burn project; 3) the type and condition of fuel and arrangement of the vegetation to be burned; 4) direction and distances to populated or smoke sensitive areas; 5) expected duration of the fire from ignition to extinction; and, 6) identification of responsible personnel, including telephone contacts. For more information and assistance regarding preparing and submitting a Smoke Management Plan, please contact Ursula Parker at 530-332-9400 x 104.

In accordance with the burn permit, you must follow all of the requirements below:

- Prescribed burning may only be conducted on a permissive burn day. Unless otherwise specified, you must contact the District's on duty inspector to obtain verbal authorization before burning.
- Unless otherwise specified by the District, burn hours are from 8:45 a.m. to one hour before sunset. If the burn is greater than 10 acres in size, burn hours are as specified in the Smoke Management Plan submitted in conjunction with the prescribed burn permit.
- No transported waste is allowed to be burned.
- In order to minimize smoke production, all vegetative waste must be dry and reasonably free of dirt, soil, visible surface moisture and shall be arranged in a manner to allow air to circulate freely.
- Burning should not be conducted when wind may carry smoke into a nearby populated area and create a public nuisance.

### **Where Can I Get More Information?**

More information regarding the District's Prescribed Burning Regulations may be obtained at our website: [www.bcaqmd.org/burning/prescribed-burning/](http://www.bcaqmd.org/burning/prescribed-burning/) or by calling the District office at 530-332-9400 or toll free at 1-855-332-9400.