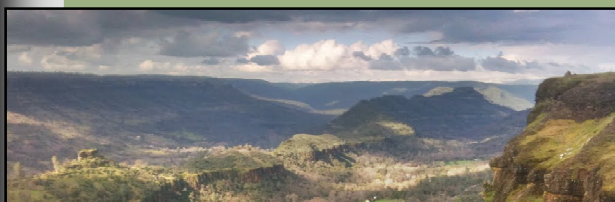


Butte County

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is the agency responsible for protecting human health and property from the harmful effects of air pollution.

The District lies within the Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin (NSVAB). The air basin is a geographical region to describe an area with a commonly shared air mass.



Brochure Revised on 8/27/15

Learn more about ALTERNATIVES To Burning:

Butte County Fire Safe Council (No-cost chipper service): (530) 877-0984

www.buttefiresafe.org

Butte County Recycling Information: 530-538-7681
<http://www.buttecounty.net/recyclebutte/Home.aspx>

Waste Management: (530) 893-4777
www.wm.com

Recology: (530) 533-5868
www.recologybuttecolusa.com

Northern Recycling and Waste Services:
(530) 876-3340 www.paradiserecycles.com

City of Chico Yard Waste Recycling / Composting Information: 530-624-3529
http://www.chico.ca.us/general_services_department/solid_waste_and_recycling/re-cycling/curbside_yard_waste_recycling.asp

Butte County Air Quality Management District

629 Entler Avenue, Suite 15
Chico, California 95928

(530) 332-9400 Office
(530) 332-9417 Fax
www.bcaqmd.org



Butte County Air Quality Management District



OPEN BURNING AND YOUR HEALTH



Butte County Air Quality Management District



Open Burning and Your Health

The Health Effects of Smoke

The effects of smoke range from eye and respiratory tract irritation to more serious disorders, including reduced lung function, bronchitis, exacerbation of asthma, and premature death. Studies have found that fine particles are linked (alone or with other pollutants) with increased mortality and aggravation of pre-existing respiratory and cardiovascular disease. In addition, particles are respiratory irritants, and exposures to high concentrations of particulate matter can cause persistent cough, phlegm, wheezing, and difficulty breathing.

Children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing lung and heart conditions are most at risk. Particles can also affect healthy people, causing respiratory symptoms, transient reductions in lung function, and pulmonary inflammation. Particulate matter can also affect the body's immune system and the physiological mechanisms that remove inhaled foreign materials from the lungs, such as pollen and bacteria.

Burning Household Waste is Illegal and Toxic!



DIOXINS: The burning of household waste and garbage is a major source of polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and dibenzofurans (collectively referred to as dioxins). Many studies have shown that dioxins can cause cancer as well as birth defects and liver damage.

PAHs: Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are chemicals formed from the incomplete burning of plastics and garbage and may increase the risk of cancer with prolonged exposure.

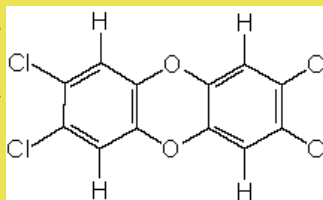
BENZENE: Benzene is found in gasoline and can be emitted from the burning of plastics and other petroleum products. Short term exposure to benzene may cause drowsiness, dizziness, headaches, as well as eye, skin, and respiratory tract irritation. Long term exposure is linked to cancer.

OTHER TOXICS: Many other toxic air contaminants have been found in the smoke of burning garbage including PCBs, formaldehyde, arsenic, and lead.

The toxic air pollutants produced from burning household waste can travel long distances and deposit on soil, plants, and in water. The leftover ash in the burn pile or barrel also contains toxic pollutants, which can spread into the soil and water. Animals and fish can ingest the pollutants and accumulate them in their tissue; plants can absorb them too. When this contaminated food is eaten, the pollutants are passed on to people. Therefore, simply avoiding the plume of smoke does not eliminate potential health risks.

Before 2004, the burning of residential waste was one of the largest sources of dioxins in California. Other sources, such as municipal and medical waste

incinerators, have pollution control devices that substantially eliminate dioxins. No pollution control device is feasible for controlling the toxins from backyard burning of household waste. A statewide rule was developed in 2004 that outlawed the burning of garbage and household waste. The rule also disallowed the use of burn barrels across the state with the exception of areas with extremely low population density. In these areas only clean and dry paper products can be legally burned.



What You Can Do

- Household garbage must be disposed of through curbside pickup or self-hauling to a transfer station, landfill, or recycling center. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle to reduce the amount of household waste that you need to dispose of.
- Compost organic waste such as kitchen scraps and yard trimmings like leaves and weeds. Composting produces rich soil that can recondition your lawn and garden.
- Brush and prunings can be chipped to make mulch which protects the soil, keeps away weeds, and reduces the need for watering.

If You Have to Burn

Opening burning of vegetative waste is necessary in many instances for fire hazard reduction and the disposal of agricultural and dooryard residential vegetative waste. Open burning of clean and dry natural vegetation that was grown on the property is allowed on permissive burn days. Commercial agricultural burning requires an air quality burn permit. There are burn hours and other requirements to follow when burning. Please check our website at www.bcaqmd.org or call the burn lines to learn more about the specific open burning requirements in your area. Please note, CAL-Fire may also require a burn permit and additional open burning requirements may apply depending on the time of year.

Outdoor Residential Burn Line: 866-332-9407

Agricultural Burn Line: 866-332-9406